



Keegan: Central figure

### Cup teams threaten to 'strike'

Liverpool and Newcastle will refuse to play their FA Cup match on Friday, January 6 if television cameras are present. The BBC want to screen the third round tie live but both clubs want the Football Association to increase the Professional Footballers' Association share of the television proceeds from the current offer of £40,000.

### Pound closes at record low

The pound fell further against the dollar, closing at a record low of \$1.4310, down 45 points, but it was firmer against other currencies.

### New-look QE2

The Queen Elizabeth 2 sailed last night from Bremerhaven to Southampton after her 15-day £3.5m refit at the Hapag-Lloyd yard.

### Solicitors' vote

MPs who are also solicitors will be allowed to vote on the controversial Bill to end the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing. The Speaker has ruled Estate agents' role, page 3

### CD clampdown

Measures to reduce the number of diplomatic service cars evading fixed penalties and wheel clamping through claiming immunity have been announced.

### Glue-sniff case

Two brothers who sold glue-sniffing kits to children were each jailed for three years after a court ruling that such sales were a crime in Scotland.

### The go-between

Portugal has offered to act as a go-between for Argentina and Britain in negotiations about the future of the Falklands.

### BL goes private

The Government is to begin privatizing BL next year, the Commons was told.

### Salyut trouble

The Salyut 7 space station suffered a fuel leak and its two-man crew had a narrow escape during their recent 149-day flight, Soviet officials admitted.

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Letters: On Airbus, from Mr P E G Bates; NGA dispute, from Mr D M Nathan; archives, from Mr H Speak.

### Leading articles: Kuwait, Gibraltar

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Could the kamikaze bombers come to London? The question mark over Britain's Beirut contingent; Mushroom clouds and video nasties; Spectrum; Mosley and the Jews. Fashion: the style of Jennifer Hall.

Obituary, page 14

General Sir Neil Ritchie

Computer Horizons announces its national computer competition for 1984, explains the significance of the computerisation of Hansard, and reports on plans to introduce 1,500 micro-computers into the Foreign Office.

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## Court orders NGA to call off its nationwide strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Graphical Association was ordered by a High Court judge yesterday to call off the countrywide newspaper strike called for tomorrow in protest at the £525,000 contempt of court fine imposed on it last week.

The print union also faces a mass of claims for damages if the strike goes ahead from newspaper managements all over Britain which could cost it millions of pounds.

Mr Joe Wade, the NGA general secretary, was last night asking the TUC for full backing for the strike, in continuing defiance of the Government's labour laws.

If the strike takes place tomorrow the fines for contempt of yesterday's order and the awards for damages could bankrupt the union.

Solicitors and High Court officials arrived at Congress House with writs to serve on Mr Joe Wade, but they were refused access to the union meeting.

The NGA, which has already been fined a total of £675,000 for contempt of orders not to picket the Warrington, Cheshire, printing works of Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah's Messenger group newspapers, appeared to be losing some of its hard-line resolve in the 24-week-old closed shop dispute.

The print workers last night asked for an unequivocal declaration of support from the TUC's influential employment policy and organization committee, but if that backing is not forthcoming the NGA national council might today reconsider its confrontationalist policy.

Leaders of other unions going into the meeting declined to discuss the issue publicly but some were privately sceptical about the NGA's chances of winning the level of TUC backing that it apparently wants before embarking on its disruption of the newspaper industry. Parallels were being drawn with the two-year battle waged by the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts which led to the union's refusal to abide by orders made in the High Court in Manchester not to engage in secondary picketing against Mr Shah's printing works.

In the High Court Mr Justice Oton granted orders sought by national and local newspaper groups restraining the NGA from "further inducing breaches of contracts" by its members in Fleet Street and the provinces.

In the House of Commons the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, made it clear that the Government would not intervene in the dispute. He spoke of "the serious consequences" that the threatened strike would have for the NGA itself, adding: "I hope that they will no longer seek to pursue this dispute in defiance of the law."

Mr Robert Stuby, president of the Newspaper Society, which represents owners of more than 1,000 provincial titles, calculated that the provincial industry would lose up to £3m if the strike call was obeyed. He indicated that provincial publishers would seek damages for that amount.

Members of the NPA are already claiming a total of £3m damages for disruption two weeks ago and the loss of another day's production could double their suit. Taken with the huge fines already levied, the court actions could bankrupt the NGA of its total, sequestered, funds of a little more than £10m.

Regional response, page 2

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Times Newspapers last night issued the following statement: "Times Newspapers Ltd and News Group Newspapers Ltd have tonight obtained a mandatory injunction requiring the NGA general secretary and national council to withdraw their instruction given to employees at TNL and NGNL to take industrial action."

"The terms of the court order specifically require the defendants to give immediate notice that they have issued an instruction for the strike call to be withdrawn."

"The instruction the NGA is required to give must be put in writing to the Press Association by 10pm tonight (Monday) and it must be confirmed subsequently in writing to the chapel and/or to the London region of the NGA."

by the NGA to win recognition and a closed shop at T Bailey Forman, publishers of the Nottingham Evening Post, which the union had to give up after spending tens of thousands of pounds.

The NGA came under intense pressure throughout the day to drop its total boycott of



Brave face: Scottish nanny Carol Compton struggles to be cheerful as she appears in a barred Italian dock charged with arson and attempted murder.

### Nanny trial starts in uproar

From Peter Nichols, Livorno, Italy

The trial of Carol Compton, the 21-year-old Scottish nanny charged with arson and attempted murder, began yesterday with her struggling to make an Italian court understand her own account of the chain of circumstances which landed her in trouble.

There were chaotic scenes before she was able to begin her testimony. When she was led into a locked cage which serves as a dock in Italy, the 60 journalists present leapt on to tables and pushed past policemen to get near her.

Despite court orders forbidding photography, cameras whirled and clicked. The Court President stalked out and could be heard shouting at officials to restore order before he would begin.

Miss Compton has been in custody since August 1982. Her mother, Mrs Pamela Compton, has accused Italian authorities of keeping her daughter in isolation because they suspect her of witchcraft.

Señor Sergio Minervini, defending counsel, persuaded the court to allow her to sit outside the metal cage once proceedings began.

The first moving view of her was nevertheless her appearance alone in the huge cage, a self-possessed figure smiling and assuring well-wishers that she was feeling fine.

She knelt down to kiss her mother between the wooden columns below the bars.

She is accused of having started five fires in three different houses with intention in one instance of killing a three-year-old girl in her charge. She denies having started any of the fires.

Describing the most serious incident in her heavy Scottish accent brought some of the worst language difficulties.

Talking of stray cats scratching on French windows she could not get across what sort of windows she was talking about nor what she meant by "rogue" cats.

Her "cot" apparently sounded like "coat" which was then translated as a blanket. Similarly her assertion that the noise made her nervous was translated as "nervosa", which means bad-tempered.

On several occasions she showed signs of impatience. The case continues today.

### Call for more places on youth team

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government is to be asked to approve changes next year to the Youth Training Scheme that would go some way towards reaching the original target of providing places for 460,000 unemployed youngsters.

But it is unlikely that extra funds will be made available. A meeting of the Manpower Services Commission tomorrow is expected to approve proposals which place emphasis on providing more places for unemployed 17-year-olds, although the commission will still be able to guarantee places only to 16-year-olds.

The proposals for the scheme's second year starting in September are contained in an internal paper to be presented today to a meeting of the Youth Training Board. The board advises the MSC youth training and is likely to accept plans for extending the scheme to more 17-year-olds.

The scheme will, according to the paper, provide places this year for about 350,000 youngsters. Better marketing of the scheme to young people and their parents would increase take-up.

There were, it says, particular difficulties this year, and a growth in take-up next year of places might be expected. However, discussions with officials at local level suggested that, without changes in the rules, the number of youngsters on the scheme would not exceed 400,000.

A better balance is suggested, with a shift away from the present Young Worker Scheme. This would make available places for another 25,000 youngsters. The young worker scheme makes available to employers funds to top up the pay of youngsters earnings less than £40 a week.

The paper says that there was uncertainty attached to estimating the number of youngsters likely to join the scheme next year and that meant the MSC would be able to guarantee places only to 16-year-old school-leavers.

The paper does not refer to future government funding of the scheme, but it is likely that ministers will be reluctant to authorize any significant increase in expenditure.

The original cost was £1,000m, but that is expected to be reduced to about £800m because of the shortfall in the take-up of places.

Young people have been reluctant to join schemes operated by local authorities and colleges of further education.

The paper predicts that this trend will continue: there will be a constant demand by youngsters to join schemes operated by private sector employers.

The MSC is at the moment coming under pressure from local authorities and further education establishments to provide refunds to cover the cost of unfilled places for which the authorities have budgeted.

## Kuwait bombs blamed on Iran

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

American embassies throughout the Middle East were last night warned that they could be the target of suicide bombers after Shia Muslim extremists believed to be acting on orders from Iran staged a concerted bombing attack on six buildings in Kuwait.

The US and French embassies, on American residential quarter of Kuwait, a power station and the control tower of the international airport were all targets of the attack, which was unprecedented in the Gulf.

It was clearly intended to strike a blow at the stability of the oil kingdoms and last night Kuwait promised the "maximum punishments" for those responsible.

One of the bombers, who was blown across the road in front of the American Embassy after driving a lorry loaded with explosives through the main gate of the compound, survived surgery last night while Kuwaiti security authorities waited to discover his identity.

About 60,000 Iraqis live in Kuwait under close scrutiny by the state police. The Americans last night believed that the Iranian Government was probably behind the assault.

Both the United States and France had apparently received warning that some attack was to be made upon their embassies but assumed it would occur in Beirut where embassy security has been substantially increased over the past two days.

Given the amount of explosives used, it was remarkable that only four people were killed and 54 wounded, although the bombs, which all detonated in the space of about an hour, were obviously meant to cause far greater casualties.

Two of the dead were Kuwaiti security guards employed by the American Embassy; a third was a technician who worked at the airport.

The bombing at the American Embassy followed an almost identical pattern to those in Beirut last October which killed almost 300 US Marines and French paratroopers. And like those attacks, yesterday's explosions in Kuwait were almost immediately claimed by a telephone caller who rang Agence France Presse in Beirut to say that he represented the Islamic Jihad (Islamic Struggle) movement which announced that it had bombed the Americans and French two months ago.

The Kuwait attacks were both an indication of growing anti-American sentiment in the Middle East and of the vulnerability of the militarily weak Gulf states who fear that Iran's revolution might at last be about to spread southwards to embrace the largely Sunni

Continued on back page, col 3

### Greece to safeguard Britons' land

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Greek Government wants to reassure about 1,000 Britons, who acquired property on the island of Corfu, circumventing a 1927 ban on sales of land to foreigners in frontier areas, that they will not be dispossessed or penalized.

Professor George Kassimatis, legal adviser to Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, told The Times: "The Prime Minister's wish and order are that this problem should be resolved promptly."

The professor, who is coordinating inter-ministerial action on this issue, said a special ministerial council would meet within a few days to recommend changes in the law.

"The Government's unanimous desire is to safeguard the rights, even the present status, of the owners, provided our national security interests are adequately protected," he stated.

The Cabinet was stirred into action after a pledge given by Mr Papandreu in London last month to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who raised the problem of Corfu Britons.

The threat was posed by a Greek Supreme Court ruling in April, validating the sale of a 15-acre Corfu estate to a Briton on the ground that under the 1972 ban even Greek companies controlled by foreigners could not acquire land in frontier areas like Corfu.

The Government has already been given a warning by the European Commission that this legislation is contrary to basic Community law. It is therefore considering the possibility of either limiting the ban to a narrow frontier zone, or imposing qualifications for foreign owners to satisfy sensitivities over national security.

### Beautiful evenings begin at Harrods

Our new-look Evening Room, completely redesigned, has reopened in perfect time for the party season. Choose something glamorous for sparkling winter nights from a dazzling selection of late day dresses, ball gowns and stunning evening separates.

Schillering sequinned top in Black and White serpentine stripes. S, M, L £70.50

Sophisticated skirt in Black wool crepe inset with satin kick pleats. 10 to 16 £92

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# General Motors to build engine plant if Vauxhall maintains its recovery

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

General Motors will build its next new engine plant in Britain if its subsidiary, Vauxhall, continues its remarkable recovery.

It could mean several thousand new jobs within three years and a substantial reduction in the company's imports of completed cars and components.

All Vauxhall engines are imported from GM factories in West Germany and Australia at present.

Mr John Fleming, chairman and managing director of Vauxhall, said yesterday that a more short-term move to increase British production at the company's plant at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire would introduce a second shift in April, four months ahead of target.

A second shift was introduced at Luton, Bedfordshire, in August. Mr Fleming said that by the end of 1984 65 per cent of all Vauxhalls sold in Britain would be British built, compared with 50 per cent at present.

He admitted that the change in tactics since 1979, when Vauxhall made all the cars sold in Britain in this country, to one where it was a substantial net importer, had not helped the country's balance of payments.

But, he insisted, it had been necessary to keep Vauxhall in business and safeguard jobs.

Mr Fleming said that initially the second Ellesmere Port shift would be manned by workers moved from other jobs, but new workers would be recruited to add to the 750 already taken on at Luton when a new model was introduced at the northern plant.

The new car is believed to be a replacement for the successful Opel Kadett which is sold here as the Astra.

Vauxhall has had a record year. It will sell more than 261,000 cars, about 14 per cent more than in 1982.

December looks like being a record for the month, with nearly 10,500 registrations or more than 16 per cent of the market.

Mr Fleming said that Vauxhall had achieved monthly record volumes in 10 of the 12 months and a record market share in six of them. It had three models in the top 10 - Cavalier, Astra and Nova - and was planning to increase its dealer network from 660 to 730.

He predicted that next year would be even better, with sales of nearly 300,000 and a 16 per

cent market share. That would be one year ahead of its original target of 16 per cent by the end of 1985.

## Fuel consumption up

The average fuel consumption of new cars in Britain is 15 per cent better than in 1978, which means a 10,000-mile-a-year motorist is saving enough to pay his car's 285 road tax, according to latest figures (the Press Association reports).

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has presented the details to the Government to show that car makers have exceeded their target of a 10 per cent fuel consumption saving two years ahead of time.

"The actual improvement could have been 17.5 per cent, but new EEC exhaust emission controls imposed in 1982 cost about 2.5 per cent fuel consumption for all cars," Mr Sam Toy, chairman of the Society's energy committee and chairman and managing director of Ford of Britain, said.

A further strengthening of emission regulations planned for 1985 will cost up to another 2½ per cent in increased fuel consumption.



## Tadworth staff to get £110,000 and jobs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Nurses, cleaners and other staff at Tadworth Court Hospital for Sick Children in Surrey are to receive £110,000 in extra pay for the year ending March 31.

The decision to make the staff redundant, rather than to second them to the trust from the NHS, was confirmed yesterday by the department.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that it did explore the possibility of seconding staff. "But neither the trust nor the board were prepared to accept secondment."

Great Ormond Street Hospital which now runs Tadworth, confirmed yesterday that it had not wanted to continue employing staff while seconding them to Tadworth. "We are not in the

staffing agency business," deputy house governor at Great Ormond Street, Mr Graham Humphrey, said.

But Mr Tim (see director of the Specialties Society and chairman of the trust, said the trust would have been prepared to have the staff seconded. "We did not have any say over the method that was chosen," he said.

Under plans announced by the trust yesterday the 129 staff, 55 of them are to be seconded, with the hand-over of the hospital set for March 31.

The delay follows a dispute between the trust and Great Ormond Street over how much land the trust should be given.

By March next, the DHSS will have to find more than £1m to keep open Tadworth and to meet redundancy payments at a time when health authorities have had to cut millions from their budgets.

## Kinnock offer to Gerry Adams

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Labour Party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock said yesterday that he would be prepared to meet Mr Gerry Adams, president of Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the Provisional IRA, but only if he was actively involved in the democratic process.

Mr Kinnock's readiness to meet Mr Adams, MP for West Belfast, and other leading members of Provisional Sinn Féin, was revealed during his first visit to Northern Ireland since he became party leader.

Although he paid a brief courtesy call on Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Kinnock did not meet leaders of any sporting parties during a brief visit in which he saw leading trade unionists, youth work-shops, and toured Shorts, the state-owned aircraft factory.

He is expected to meet political leaders on his next visit.

As Mr Kinnock arrived the upsurge in violence continued with the killing of two young men within minutes of each other in Belfast.

A new Anglo-Irish body with representatives from both parliaments should be set up as a step towards solving Northern Ireland's problems according to Mr Niels Haagerup, a Danish Liberal European MP, who presented a special report last night to the European Parliament's political affairs committee (see Murray writes from Strasbourg).

Mr Haagerup emphasized that the views were his own. But he said that the reunification of Ireland was the correct solution and the desire of many people in Ireland and of a considerable number in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Thatcher opposed the report being drawn up.

## The Warrington dispute

# Regional papers will try to beat strike

By Kenneth Gosling

A number of individual newspapers and groups of weekly and daily publications said yesterday that they would try to beat the National Graphical Association's 24-hour strike. In the case of weekly newspapers this is likely to mean a delay in delivery of local editions to newsagents.

In Scotland, it was hoped that 120 regional and weekly newspapers would publish with the cooperation of members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, although later than usual.

But the situation was less certain so far as the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society, which represented 13 morning, evening and Sunday newspapers, was concerned.

It issued a statement deploring any interference with normal publication and, like its counterpart covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland, called on the TUC to ask the NGA to think again.

In England, an attempt will be made to publish the Wolverhampton Express and Star, the evening newspaper which was produced during the national dispute in April, 1980.

Mr Mark Keren, its managing director, said: "We are obviously looking at whatever

options are open to us. I am hopeful - there is no reason why we should not produce this time round."

Mr James Evans, joint deputy managing director of Thomson British Holdings parent company of Thomson Regional Newspapers, said: "If the strike goes ahead, as far as we are concerned we will pursue the NGA for damages that will be very substantial."

"We would not be able to bring out our morning papers like the Western Mail, Cardiff, or The Journal, Newcastle, or a number of evening papers around the country. So virtually all our papers will be affected."

Sir Richard Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, which publishes 14 local newspapers, said the group hoped to keep production going. The papers have a combined circulation of 200,000 copies.

Mr Steve Oram, head of industrial relations at Westminster Press, which has many local weekly papers, said that the "question of continuing publication this week would be given full consideration," as would the question of claiming damages from the NGA.

## Unions to fight Jenkin legal move

By Hugh Clayton, Labour Correspondent

The Government yesterday told union leaders that it would seek powers next year to prevent their members from withholding information needed in the process of abolishing the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties.

The prospect of a new legal struggle between the Government and the unions arose at a meeting between Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and members of the TUC's local government committee, who told him that they are opposed to him bringing in statutory machinery to oblige employees to disclose information.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, farmworkers' section, is to undertake a study of the herbicide 2,4,5-T and the possible risks it poses to people and animals.

The union has been campaigning for several years for a ban on 2,4,5-T. The weedkiller contains the highly toxic chemical dioxin.

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## £44,000 painting from cellar

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A canvass that had been languishing in a coal cellar near Exeter for 44,000 years.

The owners had believed it was a biblical picture because they thought they detected the Red Sea dividing but once it was cleaned off the picture was seen to depict blue mountains flanking a lake.

A Red Indian in the foreground gave Phillips, which had been consulted about the picture, the idea that it had a money-spinner on its hands. It began by attempting to identify the lake and eventually detected the picture to be "A Representation of the Encampment at Lake George" in North America under the command of

Sir Jeffrey Amherst in the year 1759.

Phillips finally attributed the painting to Captain Thomas Davies who had exhibited a picture with this title at the Royal Academy in 1774.

Phillips had applied to several North American museums for help in identifying the view but it was the Fort Ticonderoga Museum in New York State which provided the charts that clinched the matter and yesterday the museum bought the picture for its collection.

The Phillips sale of British pictures totalled £465,488 with 10 per cent unsold. Another curiosity of the sale was a group of hunting pictures by Thomas Butler who is recorded in the 1750s to have tried his hand at painting the intense demand for sporting pictures during a brief visit in which he saw leading trade unionists, youth work-shops, and toured Shorts, the state-owned aircraft factory.

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## Owen deal to retire dud envoys

By a Staff Reporter

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, will disclose in a radio interview tonight that as Foreign Secretary he concluded a secret deal with the Foreign Office aimed at killing the controversial Think Tank report on the Diplomatic Service.

Speaking on the BBC Radio Three programme, *Routine Punctuated by Orgies*, a study of the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), the Cabinet's Think Tank which was closed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher last summer, Dr Owen says the CPRS's *Review of Overseas Representation*, published in 1977, was "hopeless".

It hindered the one reform on which he had set his heart: the "golden bowler" of dud ambassadors designed to ease them into early retirement and make way for gifted young men and women.

In the broadcast he describes his deal with the Foreign Office saying to its senior officials: "OK, I will ditch the report if you support me on this up-and-down business."

Mr James Callaghan set up a secret Cabinet committee, of which Dr Owen was a member, to consider the CPRS's recommendations which included closing 20 diplomatic missions.

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## Under-use may shut MSC centres

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The Manpower Services Commission will be forced to close many of its Skill Centres in areas of high unemployment next year because of government policy, the civil service union said yesterday.

According to commission figures, the centres, used mainly for adult training, will be operating at 19 per cent below capacity nationally with only 12,012 of the 14,801 available places filled.

But in the Midlands they will be 32 per cent underused, and in northern England and Wales 25 per cent will be vacant. That will inevitably lead to closures, the union claims.

Predictions of low level use partly result from the Government's wanting training centres to be operated on commercial lines. "Only those courses providing skills in demand from local employers being continued."

A private planning document drawn up by the commission's training department for consideration by the MSC tomorrow, says: "The emphasis should be on meeting the needs of employers rather than the needs of individuals. Greater emphasis should be given to training back on occupational training where, playing results are poor."

The paper, putting forward plans for 1984-85, casts doubt on the viability of the present network of centres.

"The union, which published the document yesterday, says that means that areas of high unemployment will be worst affected because of the low level of demand for skills."

The union which represents instructors at the skill centres, says that 344 such jobs are at risk. It says that most courses will be lost in mechanical engineering, automotive and construction skills.

The union says that in the present training exercise, the balance has swung wildly towards industrial needs at the expense of individuals."

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## Population trends: 2 Long haul to cut spending

Whatever the complexion of government, the 1980s would have been a decade of unemployment. In the second of our series on the demographic pressure on public spending, DAVID WALKER, Social Policy Correspondent, looks at population movements in the immediate future and how they will shape the Government's ambition to cut spending.

The present decade is a bleak stretch of years in which to reach a twenty-first birthday. Regardless of national economic policy, the 1980s would have been a time when all jobs were scarce compared with previous years; for those of school-leaving age and young adults, prospects are especially dim.

Next year, 1984, will see the number of those aged 21 reaching a peak. The last pinnacle for this age cohort was 1969 - glory years for youth when higher education was expanding, youth was fashionable and, Wilsonian stop-go notwithstanding, jobs were being created.

Now jobs are being lost at a period when the labour force is growing in numbers at a high rate, thanks mainly to the "baby boom" of the late 1950s to the mid-1960s. Additional school-leavers are now adding more than 130,000 extra to the labour force, and increased numbers of married women are pushing up the total.

Ministers may have thought about trying to encourage

women to stay at home and so diminish the pressure for jobs, but demographic evidence shows no sign that women, on whom family spending power has come vitally to depend, will abandon the search for jobs and the money they bring home.

Only in the 1990s will the increase in the number of people of an age to work tail off, when the "baby bust" of the 1970s will shape population size. Meanwhile, unless an unprecedented number of new jobs are created, and quickly, today's high unemployment rates are likely to increase further.

Mrs Thatcher's favoured policy may also be knocked away by demographic pressure in the area of housing. The science of household formation is very imprecise; policy-makers simply do not know why people set up house on their own and so get into the market for houses and flats - or join the council waiting list. Simple changes in the age structure of the population give some clues,

however, and they point to a sharp rise in household formation taking place now - with the possibility of a marked shortage of housing by the mid-1980s, if house-building does not boom.

Mr John Ermisch, in a newly published study for the Policy Studies Institute, *The Political Economy of Demographic Change*, estimates that about 78,000 extra households will have been created each year between 1981 and 1984; an extra 83,000 a year from 1984 to 87. Taken together with trends in divorce, in single person households, in single person households, a shortage of fit dwellings could be apparent in the later 1980s.

The



# Unearthed skull which led to confession was Roman, murder trial jury told

A man confessed to strangling his wife and cutting her up with an axe more than 20 years ago after the discovery of a human skull in May a jury was told yesterday. But the skull was later found to date from 410 AD.

Mr Martin Thomas QC, for the prosecution, told Chester Crown Court that no trace had been found of Malika Maria De Fernandez, who disappeared on or about October 27, 1960.

Her husband, a former BOAC airline official, Peter Reyn-Bardt, aged 57, from Knightsbridge, west London, pleaded not guilty yesterday to murder between October 27, 1960, and June 30, 1961.

The skull's discovery in Wilmslow, near Stockport, led directly to the arrest and confession, Mr Thomas said. It was tested by the department of archaeology at Oxford University.

"The tests were not completed until October 12. But the conclusions were that the subject of the skull died in the year 410 AD, just before the Roman legions departed."

Mr Reyn-Bardt, a homosexual, had met his wife on March 25, 1959, while she was working as a waitress in the Zanzibar Coffee Bar in Manchester, Mr Thomas said.

She was slim, with long black hair worn in a Spanish style. She looked Spanish, but spoke English without an accent. "Who precisely she was, her nationality, her background has never been properly established."

Mr Thomas said that within two hours they were engaged and married on March 28 "in a burst of publicity" in the press and on television. Her age was given as 32.

"He was in some trouble with his employers over overt homosexuality and the marriage gave him respectability. She apparently loved to travel and could get free air travel through his position as station officer."

They moved into a house in Greater Manchester, but it was always a marriage of convenience, Mr Thomas said. However, Mr Reyn-Bardt's association with a young man, Philip Clark, caused friction.

It came to a head in November, when she moved out.

In January, 1983, Mr Reyn-Bardt was asked by two policemen whether he had killed his wife, Mr Thomas said. He replied: "Good gracious, no."

But, on May 13 an excavator driver found a human skull, thought to be that of a female aged between 30 and 50, about 300 yards from the cottage. Detectives arrested Mr Reyn-Bardt.

He is alleged to have said that he murdered her that day because she threatened to expose his homosexuality unless he paid her more money. The trial continues today.



Peter Reyn-Bardt and Malika on their wedding day.

## Estate agents might take on conveyancing

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Estate agents are likely to provide competition for solicitors in conveyancing if Mr Austin Mitchell's House Buyers Bill becomes law, the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers said yesterday.

Commenting on the Bill, which has its second reading on Friday, the society says that it is unaware of any significant demand from house agents to undertake conveyancing, but "if the Bill is enacted, banks and building societies will be empowered to offer this service and in order to compete, many agents will feel compelled to follow suit."

Concerned about the risks involved for the house buyers if the solicitor's monopoly is ended, the society believes that in spite of safeguards built into the Bill, including limiting non-solicitors to do the conveyancing on property with registered title only, the risk of mistake is merely reduced, not eradicated.

"The society remain firmly of the opinion that not only should all conveyancers undergo a course of training, but they should also have a sound basic knowledge of property law."

Mr Brian Grainger, president of the society, said that it was constantly trying to find ways of reducing costs and speeding property transactions but "this must never be at the expense of professional competence."

A Conservative pressure group, the National Association of Conservative Graduates yesterday gave its support to Mr Mitchell's Bill.

"The Government's stance has been equivocal and unconvincing."

"If (which we very much doubt) the Law Society's arguments against this narrowing of their monopoly are right, then solicitors have nothing to fear because the competition will eventually wither away," the association said.

## Arrested lawyer claims damages from the police

A solicitor was accused of theft, arrested in a busy court building and kept in a police cell, a jury at the High Court in Manchester was told yesterday.

But David Middleweek, aged 44, was never prosecuted. His counsel Mr John Huggill QC told the court that the conduct of the police had been "quite outrageous and without justification."

Mr Middleweek, a partner in a Manchester firm, was detained for more than two hours in Liverpool's main police station. Then, in the hearing of others he was told he was being bailed on suspicion of stealing a police document.

Mr Middleweek is claiming damages, alleging wrongful arrest, unlawful search, false imprisonment and defamation from the Chief Constable of Merseyside and Inspector William Coady.

The hearing continues today.

## Complaint over 'Koo' Stark story upheld

The Press Council has upheld a complaint that *The Sun* invaded the Royal Family's privacy by publishing information about Prince Andrew and Miss Kathleen (Koo) Stark supplied by a former royal servant.

The material should not have been published, the council said, because it related to matters which were essentially private. Despite great interest in the Royal Family's activities there was an area of life and conduct which they and their guests could regard as private.

Only the first day's material in what was intended to be a series was published because *The Sun* became subject to legal proceedings brought on behalf of The Queen, and publication was halted. The action was settled within days, one of the terms being that no further articles would be published.

## Antifreeze test failed by garages

By Robin Young

How can motorists be certain there is enough antifreeze in their cars to withstand winter's low temperatures? The answer, according to West Midlands County Council's consumer services department, is that they cannot, unless they drain the system and refill with the appropriate mixture.

The department filled a test vehicle's cooling system with rather more antifreeze than the manufacturers recommended, then took it to 20 garages selected at random, asking them to check whether any antifreeze was needed. Only four garages agreed there was sufficient antifreeze in the car. Five claimed there was no antifreeze in the system at all, and three of the garages which encouraged the researchers to spend money unnecessarily on buying antifreeze also charged 50p for carrying out the test.

The method of test varied. Most used some form of tester, but others did it by licking a finger dipped in the system and judging by taste. That method is not recommended for do-it-yourself tests as the methanol in some antifreezes can be poisonous.

## Third firm cuts holiday prices

Britain's third largest holiday company, Horizon, yesterday joined its two main rivals by reprinting its 1984 summer brochure with an average of 10 per cent price cuts.

The latest move in the price war follows the market leader, Thomson Holidays, relaunching its brochure with 10 per cent cuts on average, and Intersun, the second largest company, reducing prices by an average of 9 per cent.

## Body on shore

The body of Jason Collins, aged 12, of Wiltshire Road, Skelton, Cleveland, was found washed ashore yesterday at Saltburn-by-the-Sea, near where the fishing boat Venus had overturned the night before. He had gone fishing with his uncle and another man who both scrambled to safety.

## Villa discovery

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a Roman house, built about 300 AD, in Spring Hill, Lincoln. It had an ornate mosaic floor and a hypocaust. Flats are to be built on the site.

## Lorry used to transfer hospital patient

From Our Correspondent Peterborough

The management of the Fitzwilliam private hospital which opened at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, this year at a cost of £4m has admitted moving a badly injured patient in the back of a rented lorry.

The hospital's branch of the National Union of Public Employees published a photograph of the incident on the front page of its December newsletter yesterday with the headline: "Yes, for just £107 a day, you too could be carted about in the back of a lorry."

The patient was a man who had broken his pelvis and was in traction in a bed complete with frame.

Mr Mike Radford, union branch secretary, said: "The lorry was totally lacking in the basic requirements such as adequate interior lighting, heat-



Indian epic: Members of the Kala Kendra dance and drama company from Delhi at the Commonwealth Institute in London yesterday. The group, which is on a European tour, will give performances this week, including a presentation of *Ram Lila*, a famous Indian morality tale of gods, kings, princesses and undying love. (Photograph: John Voos).

## Call to ban private shoplifting writs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Leave to introduce a private members' Bill to ban private shoplifting prosecutions is being sought on January 16 by Mr Greville Janner QC, Labour MP for Leicester West.

The Bill would also require the police to follow the Essex force's system of cautions in appropriate cases, including those involving the elderly and infirm.

Mr Janner says in a letter to Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary at the Home Office, that Leicestershire Police have followed the example of Essex.

Leicestershire Police were the prosecuting authority in the case of Lady Barnett, of Cossington, Leicestershire, a friend of Mr Janner, who killed herself in 1980 four days after her conviction at Leicester Crown Court for stealing a carton of cream and a tin of tuna fish, valued at 75p, from a village store.

"The dock was no place for poor Lady-Isobel Barnett", Mr Janner said in a letter to *The Times* on December 2.

Mr Janner's move to introduce the Bill also follows the decision by F W Woolworth to prosecute a widow aged 77, for shoplifting. Mr Recorder Goldstein described the action as "an affront to British justice."

After the judge's comments, Mr Richard Newcombe for Woolworth decided not to proceed with the case and a formal verdict of not guilty was recorded. Woolworth protested to the Lord Chancellor about the judge's comments.

But Mr Mellor has replied to Mr Janner that there can be no justification for restricting, in general, access to the courts by private prosecutors as proposed by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

Referring to alternatives to prosecution, used by Essex Police, Mr Mellor says that a working group of chief constables and officials is aware of the forces practice and of cautioning schemes used elsewhere.

## Film fans must pay more for 007

Cinema goers will have to pay extra to see two hit films this Christmas.

Prices are to be increased at one hundred ABC cinemas for the new James Bond film, *Never Say Never Again*, starring Sean Connery, and the thriller *Jaws 3D*. Adults will pay an extra 50p and children an extra 25p.

Thorn EMI, which owns the cinema chain, says that increasing prices for "blockbusters" is one way to bring more money into the troubled film industry.

*Never Say Never Again* has proved the most successful Bond film ever in the United States. The two new films together have grossed more than £100m already.

Thorn EMI's marketing director, Mr Philip Nugus, said: "Putting up prices for individual films is a gamble. But audience research has shown that many people are prepared to pay more for the big-budget, high quality film."

"That means we can spend more on publicity and so attract more money back into the industry to be used on improving cinema standards."

"We are experimenting with this system instead of putting up all seat prices in the new year."

"People who can afford to go to the cinema will do so anyway. For them 50p is not a great deal."

## Pub video licence ruling

A ruling by councillors in Dudley, West Midlands, could lead to thousands of public houses all over the country having to be licensed as cinemas at a fee of more than £50.

The Dudley environmental health committee has decided that the Windmill in the village of Lye, which has one of the new video jukeboxes, must be licensed under the Cinematograph (Amendments) Act, which came into force a year ago.

Other councils are believed to be facing similar decisions. If the ruling stands it could mean public houses and wine bars with video jukeboxes having to apply annually for cinema licences and submit to inspection by the fire brigade and environmental health officials.

## Show success

More than 68,430 people visited the Royal Smithfield Show at Earls Court, London, last week, 2,660 more than last year.

## Doctors win closure reprieve

A group of family doctors have won a High Court order forcing a health authority to reconsider closing their hospital.

Mr Justice Woolf ruled yesterday that Hillingdon Health Authority had acted unlawfully when it made a decision to close the 53-year-old Northwood, Pinner and District Hospital.

In September the authority had decided to close the hospital temporarily because of overspending in the district which would have reached £1m unless drastic measures were taken. A temporary shutdown leading to permanent closure would save £358,000 in a full year.

However, Hillingdon had not taken account of the doctors' three-month contracts and although the authority had now issued termination notices ending the contracts in February, their September decision was quashed.

The hospital which has 36 beds, has remained open pending the outcome of the court action. The judge said his order would only add a short additional delay before the authority met to reconsider the question of closure.

The first decision had been supported by only a small majority and the judge said they were entitled to come to the same decision again but he recognized that there could be a different decision.

Dr Paul Goodwin, chairman of the doctors' committee that runs the hospital said: "We are delighted."

Law Report, page 21

# SPY FOR THE NAZIS, SAVIOUR OF JEWS.



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# SCHINDLER



SCHINDLER, THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY, NARRATED BY DIRK BOGARDE, 9.30 TONIGHT, ON THAMES TELEVISION.

The Booker Prize winning novel 'Schindler's Ark' by Thomas Keneally is published by Coronet Books in paperback.

## South-east spends more for Christmas

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Shoppers in the South-east, particularly in London, are already promising the retail trade there a better Christmas than last year. But reports are bleaker from other regions.

Table wine sales, already on an upward trend as spirits and beer sales have decreased, have again increased and an annual record sale of wines, including ports and sherries, should reach about 750 million bottles by the end of the year, according to the Wine and Spirit Association.

Toy sales for the year are expected to be up by at least 6 per cent to more than £700m worth, according to the National Association of Toy Retailers. An early start to Christmas selling saw sales at Hamleys in Regent Street up by 36 per cent in the first half of November and sales are still running strongly.

But in Sheffield, Redgates, one of the biggest toy retailers in the North of England, has so far been only matching sales volumes of last year, which proved a relatively disappointing Christmas.

While Christmas shopping in the South of England started early there is a noticeable tendency to later shopping in the North.

Cole Brothers, a Sheffield department store which is part of the John Lewis Partnership, saw sales decline by 4.5 per cent in the week ended November 26, compared with the same week a year ago. But in the following week to December 3 sales were up by 4.5 per cent.

John Lewis, which has a score of department stores, has seen its best results in the first week of this month in the South-east. Overall sales in the week-ended December 3 were 11 per cent up, just short of the group's projected increase. Toy, radio and television sales were up by nearly 15 per cent.

## November sales up

Spending in the shops gathered pace again in November after dipping slightly the previous month, according to provisional figures from the Department of Trade and Industry (Peter Wilson-Smith writes).

The retail sales index, which measures the seasonally adjusted volume of trade in the shops, rose by 1.1 per cent between October and November to a provisional 116.5. This was still below the record 117.3 in September.



# 1985 target date for sale of British Airways

## PRIVATIZATION

British Airways is to be established as a public limited company next year and sold to the public as soon as possible, probably in early 1985. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said a Commons statement.

He had not yet reached a decision on whether a capital reconstruction of the airline would be necessary. Mr Ridley said: "The Government's intention of moving British Airways into the private sector was announced by the then Secretary of State for Trade in July 1979. Legislation to achieve this was passed in the Civil Aviation Act 1980.

Our original intention was to go ahead with a sale soon after the passing of the Act, but the decline in the airline's profits in 1979-80 and the large losses in the two subsequent years made that impracticable.

Over the last two years, however, decisiveness on the part of management and determined cooperation from the workforce have sharply improved British Airways' productivity, and the airline industry is now emerging from the world recession.

British Airways made a net profit of £77m in the financial year ended last March, and they are set to make significantly higher profits this year. British Airways have also begun to restore their balance sheet. Since March they have repaid well over £100m of borrowings without any assistance from the Government.

The external finance limit fixed for 1984/85 means we expect British Airways to repay at least £160m of borrowings next year.

Following this transformation of British Airways' financial prospects I have decided to aim for privatization as soon as possible, hopefully in early 1985. To this end I propose to establish British Airways as a public limited company under Government ownership in accordance with the 1980 Act.

I am accordingly arranging for the registration of a public limited company under the name of British Airways Plc without at this stage giving it the right to trade, and I shall shortly make an order nominating it as the successor company to the British Airways Board under section 3(2) of the 1980 Act.

All those who need to be done well in advance of vesting to allow time for the necessary administrative steps, such as arranging the transfer of overseas property and rights from the British Airways Board to British Airways Plc.

Shortly before vesting British Airways Plc should be issued with a certificate to trade under section 4 of the Companies Act 1980, so that



Robinson: Minister being dishonest

Robinson: Minister being dishonest

Privatization does have implications for competition and the sound development of the British airline industry. I have therefore asked the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority for advice and he has responded that the authority will review the situation in consultation with the industry and representatives of users and make any desirable changes within the framework of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 in their statement of policy on air transport licensing and other recommendations. I welcome this.

Mr Geoffrey Riley (Coventry North West, Lab) said Mr Ridley is being totally dishonest with himself and the House if he pretends there is the slightest hope of BA repaying its capital debt within the period he envisages for privatization. Those debts cannot be repaid in the foreseeable future even on the current good trading performance.

Will Mr Ridley give an assurance that the bulk of these debts will be paid by BA before privatization, otherwise it is to go off at a knock-down price a major national asset at less than one-third of its value?

Mr Ridley: Mr Robinson is wrong in his suggestion that there is any dishonesty in anything I have said. Not only is it possible for BA to earn a great deal more profit, in the way they are going now they seem set fair to do so in the timescale I have set out. They can do other things to improve their balance sheet.

The board will review the value of their assets between now and the time they can certify that the assets are reasonably valued in the published balance sheets. They will consider if there are good grounds for revaluing particular assets.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that after privatization BA would still be the most significant domestic European and intercontinental airline.

An opportunity (he said) should be taken for creating conditions in which at least two, rather than one, substantial airline operator can be created from this situation for the benefit of customers and competition.

Mr Ridley said Parliament had taken the power from the Government to alter the allocation of routes and made it subject to the Civil Aviation Authority. The Civil Aviation Authority, which he had asked it to look at its policy in this respect. What Mr Howell said was surely taken into consideration by the CAA.

During the question time Mr Ridley said that airport policy could be within the scope of the CAA review. On competition, he said this was with the foreign airline on the same route for the vast majority of Britain's designated overseas routes.

There could not be competition to get onto routes where there was not a designation.

# All MPs urged to condemn strike by print workers

## NGA DISPUTE

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, appealed to all MPs to join him in condemning the National Graphical Association's further recourse to indiscriminate and damaging industrial action in calling a one-day strike for Wednesday, but the Opposition did not respond. Mr King responded to the invitation by Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, that he should invite the parties to the dispute to meet at the Department of Employment.

Mr Smith said that the setting up of the Advisory and Conciliation Board had not removed from the Secretary of State for Employment the duty of resolving industrial disputes placed on him by Parliament. Mr King replied that he had not sought to dissociate the Government from that and had invited Mr Smith to join him in seeking to achieve that within the law. Mr Smith had signally failed to do so.

In a statement Mr King said: Further negotiations between the Stockport Messenger Group and the NGA took place throughout the week under ACAS chairmanship. These lengthy negotiations ended without agreement in the early hours of Friday morning.

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There could not be competition to get onto routes where there was not a designation.

negotiation held before Acas will not be held by at least one side as an entirely accurate and unbiased account of events.

Between now and Wednesday there is time to avoid a national printing strike and as Secretary of State for Employment, Mr King has a responsibility to foster good industrial relations. As the nation is faced with what could become a damaging national dispute, it is his duty to help all sides to find a settlement.

He should invite the parties now to meet today (Monday) or tomorrow at the Department of Employment to discuss ways of avoiding the conflict. If he does not do so, he is missing an opportunity of an intelligent initiative by the responsible minister who might tip the balance towards a settlement.

Mr King: I have sought to represent the facts of the dispute as fairly as I could, and the House will notice what certain MPs did not appear to accept last time I made a statement - that this dispute is about the imposition of a closed shop. It is an attempt to impose a closed shop against the wishes of the employees of the firm concerned.



Gorst: Resist Opposition blandishments

Mr David Owen, Leader of the SDP: I believe that Mr King is right not to intervene. His main effort should be in trying to urge the TUC to assert the principle which the TUC has always upheld - the rule of law - and that the TUC should not surrender to the blandishments of the NGA in defiance of the law.

Mr King: I do not wish to anticipate the views of the TUC. If the TUC is concerned, as it must be, for respect for trade unions, it must be concerned to see that unions operate within the law.

Mr John Gorst (Hendon, North, C): Will Mr King continue to resist the blandishments of the Opposition for him personally to interfere in this dispute?

Mr King: I have not found them very blandishing so far. I have no intention of being dragged in by those sort of siren calls, as though a minister has superior ability over the professional experience of Acas.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): The NGA is so keen to get a closed shop when the workers do not want it, so that they should be able in future to make those workers strike against their will on pain of exclusion from the industry. It is disgraceful that the Opposition by its silence is prepared to condone such behaviour.

Mr King: I would have thought that the Opposition on reflection must realize that it is and must be everyone's right to belong or not to belong.

Mr John Rymann (Blyth Valley, Lab): Will Mr King continue to shirk his responsibility on the slender pretext that there is statutory machinery in existence?

Mr King: I have recognized my first responsibility, to make sure that the statutory machinery which exists under statute for resolution of this sort of dispute are available.

that, and Mr Smith has signally failed to do that.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Aldershot and Sale, C): The printers and typesetters employed by the Messengers have a responsibility to foster good industrial relations. As the nation is faced with what could become a damaging national dispute, it is his duty to help all sides to find a settlement.

He should invite the parties now to meet today (Monday) or tomorrow at the Department of Employment to discuss ways of avoiding the conflict. If he does not do so, he is missing an opportunity of an intelligent initiative by the responsible minister who might tip the balance towards a settlement.

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# Diplomatic cars to get much less immunity

## ROAD TRAFFIC

The Government is taking action to significantly reduce the number of diplomatic vehicles which are able to escape fixed penalties and wheel clamping through claiming diplomatic immunity. Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, told the House of Lords during question time.

In answer to a question by Lord Balfour of Inchery, (C) about the problem of the parking of diplomatic vehicles, Lord Elton said: We have completed a detailed review of the wheel clamping of diplomatic vehicles. This has confirmed that such clamping would be in breach of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations and is, therefore, not legally possible to apply wheel clamps to such vehicles.

Instead we propose to tackle the wider problem arising from the numbers of diplomatic vehicles in London. The Government is introducing new arrangements to reduce their numbers.

The first measure arises from the distinction which exists between different types of diplomatic immunity. Representatives of certain international organizations such as the UN, Nato and consular staff, are not entitled to full immunity but only to immunity in connection with the acts arising from their official duties.

Representatives are at present issued with category X registration plates which are also issued to certain staff entitled to full immunity. In future, X registered plates will be issued only to vehicles whose users are only entitled to immunity arising from their official acts.

As soon as the necessary replating has been completed, X registered vehicles, of which there are some 400, will be eligible for wheel clamping.

Secondly, there will be a firm limit on the number of vehicles for which D registration plates will be issued. These are issued to vehicles used by persons entitled to full diplomatic immunity. In future, the issue of D plates for official vehicles will be limited to a maximum of one set per notified diplomat per mission.

Thirdly, the issue of D plates for private vehicles will be limited to a maximum of two sets per diplomat household.

These measures should result in a significant reduction in the number of vehicles exempt from wheel clamping.

There were 5,718 vehicles in London carrying diplomatic immunity and this year 74,674 fixed notice penalties had been cancelled on the grounds of diplomatic immunity.

In only two instances had members of British missions abroad had their vehicles clamped. On each occasion the fine had been paid.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): London Regional Transport Bill, second reading, Lords (2.30): Agricultural Holdings Bill, committee, third day.



Geoffrey Smith

Mrs Thatcher's message to President Alfonsín of Argentina marks a new phase in the Falklands saga. It also indicates a significant development in her own premiership. It confirms that she is now prepared to be influenced by the advice of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

After the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, the Foreign Office was very much out of favour. Mrs Thatcher had never had much rapport with professional diplomats, and she came to the conclusion then that they had let her down.

By about the beginning of this year the Prime Minister's attitude had evidently mellowed. But the first notable indication that she had become receptive to Foreign Office advice came at the Conservative Party conference in October, when she spoke of the need for dialogue with the Soviet Union.

## Virtues of active diplomacy

This did not exactly conflict with what she had said in Washington a fortnight before when receiving the Winston Churchill Foundation award. But the balance and tone of her Blackpool speech were very different; and her Goldhill speech a month ago, in which she announced her intention to visit Hungary early next year, was in keeping with the new style.

It is an approach that accords precisely with Foreign Office thinking, with its belief in the value of keeping open the lines of communication with the East so as both to control the rise of international tension and to create the conditions in which a disarmament agreement might be negotiated.

One is tempted to suggest that Mrs Thatcher's response to the invasion of Grenada had been the mark of Foreign Office influence. Certainly, it too was in line with the analyses of the FCO, which did not believe that the United States had sufficient justification for its action on the basis of the evidence then available either in London or in Washington - whatever may have been subsequently discovered about the Cuban arms build-up on the island. But this seems to have been an instance where the Prime Minister and the Foreign Office came independently to the same conclusion.

The Argentine initiative, however, clearly bears the stamp of the FCO. It is not just that the Foreign Office has always believed in the need for a deal sometime with Argentina. Professional diplomats see the advantages of starting a process of discussion without specifying exactly where it should lead. But one would have thought that this kind of tentative, indirect, conciliatory approach was quite Mrs Thatcher's style.

It is all the more remarkable that she should become influenced by FCO thinking at a time when the Foreign Secretary himself is not particularly strong. Sir Geoffrey Howe has had an uncomfortable few months since his transfer from the Treasury. He is one of the most resilient of politicians, but his air of battered doggedness has enabled him neither to command the Commons nor to cut an imposing figure on the international stage.

## The need for professionalism

No doubt he carries more weight with Mrs Thatcher than his immediate predecessor, Mr Francis Pym, who neither enjoyed a happy relationship with the Prime Minister nor seemed well placed in that post. But by far the strongest of Mrs Thatcher's Foreign Secretaries has been Lord Carrington. He could persuade her to change her mind, although usually after long and bruising argument. But that was essentially a personal influence rather than that of a department.

Perhaps that may be what we are seeing again. The softening of Mrs Thatcher's attitude towards the FCO became apparent shortly after Sir Anthony Parsons became her special adviser on foreign affairs a year ago. Her acceptance of the case for a dialogue with the East became evident shortly after Sir Anthony wrote her a paper on that theme a few months ago.

In his new job Sir Anthony has been a valuable link between the Prime Minister and his former colleagues in the FCO. But he finally retired at the end of last year. It will be a pity if the Foreign Office influence goes with him. The conduct of international affairs requires professionalism, provided it is recognized that professionalism is not enough.

One of Mrs Thatcher's greatest qualities, in foreign policy as in other fields, is a refusal to be deterred by odds that would daunt most reasonable, well-informed people.

# BL heading for private sector

## INDUSTRY

Elimination of the 10 per cent special car tax would be a first-rate bargain which would give returns to the Government. Mr Roger King (Birmingham, Northfield, C) said in the Commons in initiating a debate on the motor industry.

Moving a motion calling on the Government to give continued encouragement to the industry, he said that they should not fall into the trap of bribing Nissan to set up a plant in Britain with several hundred million pounds to provide more than about 6,000 new jobs, only to find Nissan's market share in Britain was at the expense of BL, Ford and GM.

Mr George Park (Coventry North East, Lab) said any agreement with Nissan to produce in this country must contain a strict condition on high local content.

To talk about privatizing parts of

BL as individual parts of it moved into profit took no account of the cyclical nature of the sales of ownership. No one could expect this to happen overnight.

BL to lose the possibility of the corporate strength holding the company together.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said on taxation that the Government did not distinguish between the company car as a tool as distinct from its being a perk.

Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West, Lab), for the Opposition, said they would welcome Nissan so long as it meant more jobs net in the car industry, would not be at the expense of existing firms and there would be maximum opportunities for British components.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said he was confident that 1984 would see the first steps in the return of British cars and of motor to the whole of the Government's priority for BL and it intended to see it through.

# Pressure groups attacked for activities

## HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, attacked what he described as the cruelty of those who had deliberately unsettled and harassed people who were not possibly adversely affected by the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill. This was being done, to some extent deliberately, by pressure groups.

All it will achieve is substantial damage to companies who have no connexion with this dispute and which can only put at risk the jobs of many of their own members and other employees as well.

For all these reasons, and not least the likely to be the serious consequences for the NGA itself, I hope that they will no longer seek to pursue this dispute in defiance of the law.

Mr Smith: His account of the

would have regard to "the party's age, family commitments, training, continuity of work experience and the availability of employment opportunities."

Lady Lockwood said there was still widespread concern about this part of the Bill and many organizations, including the National Council of Women, had approached her about it. She had received a sad letter from a 64-year-old woman who had been divorced, asking if her monthly allowance would be stopped. She had reassured her about this.

The Bill's effect could be to cause women to be continually looking over their shoulder for future consequences. A whole range of family consequences needed to be taken into account. The amendment gave guidance on the kind of factors that the court should consider. It had an eye-banded approach to both parties to a divorce.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell (C) said that an extraordinary amount of distortion had occurred before the terms of the Bill were properly examined. The words which the amendment would insert were unnecessary and would be already spelt out everything that a court needed to take into account to do fairness to both parties.

Lord Hailsham said that they could not draft an Act simply to take public concern into account. The instruction to the courts to do something in a particular way.

He hoped they would be able to bring to those who were potentially affected by the Bill exactly what the Government had in mind.

The draftsman would like to have another look at the section to see if the criteria as set out was the right criteria. The amendment would be considered.

Lord Malsbrough, for the Opposition, said the media had put the Bill

about as if it would enable a husband to persuade a court that the wife ought to be independent, regardless of age, and on the basis that the court was now to say that it was a good idea to render a husband, able for a certain period of time, but not making it a continuing obligation throughout his life.

In the profession it was known that there were registrars who were "wives' registrars" and others who were "husbands' registrars".

Courts, practitioners, the public and the media needed guidance when alterations of this kind were being brought forward.

Lord Hailsham commented: Of course the media are always with us, like the poor, and they have distorted this Bill.

The amendment was rejected by 99 votes to 84 - Government majority, 15.

# Participation in waterways business

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons written reply on privatization.

The British Waterways Board is financed at 85 per cent of its total income by annual grants from the Exchequer. An objective currently under discussion with the board is that it should increase opportunities for private sector participation in its business, for example by direct investment, contracting out joint ventures and hiring out.

# Severn decisions early in the new year

## TRANSPORT

Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, said during questions in the Commons that he was determined to maintain the Severn Bridge, a vital entry into Wales and of fundamental importance to the economy of South Wales.

The Government was making an assessment about the strengthening required on the existing bridge and alongside that considering the question of a second crossing. The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Nicholas Ridley) hoped to make an

early statement to the House on both of these matters. This was more likely to be in the new year than before Christmas.

Asked by Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab) what steps he was taking to improve the motorway access into Wales, Mr Edwards said he worked in close cooperation with the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure the best possible motorway access into Wales.

Mr Hughes will be confirmed that the Severn Bridge on the M4 is the only stretch of motorway in the whole of the United Kingdom on which tolls are collected?

Mr Edwards: The important matter

of the moment is not the question of tolls, which have been operated under successive Governments but to ensure the security of this vital crossing to Wales.

Mr Raymond Gower (Vale of Glamorgan, C): Nevertheless, would it not make some improvement to the flow of traffic if the tolls for vehicles entering Wales were collected on the Welsh side and not on the English side?

Mr Edwards: Mr Ridley is taking a close look at all the measures which operate the bridge to see if he can eliminate any unnecessary delay. This is certainly one of the things that is being looked at.

# Welsh improvement grants backlog will be honoured - Minister

## HOUSING

A total of 90,000 home improvement grant applications are outstanding in Wales and this backlog of applications has been suspended approval of discretionary grants. Mr Vya Roberts, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said during Commons questions.

He was answering Mr Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Lab) who then said that these 90,000 applicants were going to be left in a hopeless situation having applied but now knowing there was no hope of carrying out the improvements. Their homes and improvements would be blighted.

Will he (he asked) call a summit meeting with the Welsh local authorities to rearrange the financing of this enormous backlog so that people can improve their homes as the Government has encouraged them to do?

Mr Roberts: He is mistaken. We have made specific arrangements for this year and told local authorities that any spending on renovation grants above 50 per cent of the allocation given to them will be met by us.

Sir Raymond Gower (Vale of Glamorgan, C): Will he bear in mind that Wales has a significantly higher proportion of owner-occupiers than the UK in general and many are of small or limited means? The housing stock is older than the average for the UK, and therefore the need for repair and renovation is greater.

Mr Roberts: Because of the conditions revealed by the House Conditions Survey and for certain other reasons, the Chancellor saw fit to introduce the 90 per cent rate of grant which will remain available in hardship cases after March 31, 1984. We welcome this enormous

number of applications and it will be clear that the 90 per cent rate of grant was for a limited period. Although the period for applying for the grant comes to an end on March 31, there will continue to be improvement grants available at the 75 per cent rate. I cannot stress enough that anyone who has applied by March 31 for the higher rate of grant will get it.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, Alyn and Deeside, Lab: The minister claims success but why are the local authorities angry and bitter? Is it not the case that the poorer occupiers in elderly homes will suffer most and that their houses will be progressing towards massive dilapidation?

Mr Roberts: These grants are at the higher rate in order to help the poorer house owners and they are clearly taking advantage of it. Local authorities have no cause to be angry with anyone except themselves, because they have failed to take advantage of the opportunities given them by the Government.

Mr Peter Hubbard-Miles (Bridgend, C): In November 1982 one of the largest housing authorities in Wales was urged by certain of its members to redeploy existing staff or take on additional staff in order to take maximum advantage of the special short-term improvement scheme. If that advice had been accepted, many of its 1,000 current applications would have been completed by now.

Mr Roberts: He is right. We have made special arrangements to meet the financial costs this year and of course the sky was the limit last year. These grants are available to local authorities.

Mr Gerald Howells (Ceredigion and Pembroke North, Lib): Will he give an assurance that the Government has no plans to abandon the home improvement scheme in 1984-85?

# Four projects to create 300 jobs

Wales' new inward investment organisation, WINvest, was today announcing four new projects for Cardiff and Tredegar, which promised 300 new jobs.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, stated during Commons questions. He said he had discussed several of these projects during his recent tour of the United States.

During the first 8 months of its operations, WINvest had handled 161 company visits to Wales. He said later that allocations to Welsh Development Agency factories this year were well up on last year's all-time record figure.

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## France's extreme right delighted by surge in Brittany by-election

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The extreme right-wing National Front marked up the most striking result in the 15 national and local government by-elections on Sunday, obtaining 13 per cent of the vote in the parliamentary by-election in the second constituency of the Morbihan in Brittany.

Otherwise, the by-elections showed overall a continuation of the shift away from the left to the right, but with nevertheless some success for the left, with the Communists increasing their share of the vote in three cantonal by-elections and the Socialists increasing theirs in one.

The National Front's high score in the Morbihan, obtained by its own president, M Jean-Marie Le Pen, was unexpected, particularly in a predominantly country area where there are virtually no immigrants. It was the National Front's best result since the 17 per cent it won in the Dreux municipal by-election last September.

A delighted M Le Pen, who

was born in the Morbihan, claimed afterwards that the National Front should now be considered the second most important opposition party after the Gaullist RPR.

M Georges Sarre, national secretary of the Socialist Party, said the result obtained by M Le Pen was worrying.

The Morbihan by-election was held after the election to the senate of the previous incumbent, M Christian Bonnet, UDF *deputé* for the constituency for the past 26 years. Three of the seven people contesting the seat on Sunday were rival UDF candidates.

Between them they obtained 66 per cent of the vote, however, while the Socialist candidate obtained only 15 per cent, markedly down from the 30 per cent the Socialists obtained in the national elections at the peak of the party's popularity two years ago. There will be a run-off between two UDF candidates next Sunday.

The only other parliamentary

by-election on Sunday was in the first constituency of the Lot in the Midi-Pyrénées, where M Maurice Faure, a member of the centre-left Mouvement des Radicaux de Gauche (MRG), had held the seat for 32 years until his election to the Senate.

Although the single opposition candidate gained the highest score in the Lot with 43 per cent of the vote, the left is well placed to win the run-off next Sunday. The three Socialist, Communist and MRG candidates obtained between them over 51 per cent.

The young MRG candidate, M Bernard Charles, who was endorsed by M Faure, did surprisingly well, obtaining 23 per cent of the vote, compared with only 16 per cent for the official Socialist Party candidate. The MRG is one of the components of the present Government, but is so tiny, usually getting no more than 2-3 per cent of the national vote, that it is rarely mentioned.



African quartet: President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya (left) celebrating yesterday his country's 20 years of independence with some of the invited heads of state - King Moshoeshoe of Lesotho, President Kanunda of Zambia and President Said Barre of Somalia. The occasion was marked by the pardoning of 7,000 petty criminals and assurances to Uganda and Tanzania that Kenya would never tolerate dissident groups from those nations on its soil.

## Angola 'to step up use of Cubans'

By Richard Dowden

Cuban and Soviet involvement in southern Africa may soon be stepped up and Cuban troops used in direct combat against the Unita guerrillas and, the South Africans supporting them, according to an Angolan official.

Mr Arsan Humbaraci, an Angolan Government adviser, told a press conference in London yesterday that the Angolans would soon ask for more Cuban troops and that, in the wake of the US invasion of Grenada, Cuba would be willing to supply them.

Until now, the Cuban forces in his country, estimated by US sources to number 20,000, have been held back from direct front-line combat.

It is understood the Russians have supplied new MiGs, Sam missiles and armour to Angola, and that France has sold Angola Gazelle helicopter gunships. The Soviet Union, Mr Humbaraci hinted, would be delighted with an Angolan decision to raise the stakes for the Americans in Southern Africa.

"Because of South African involvement in this zone, the war may take on new dimensions and the battle here will involve Cuban and perhaps Soviet troops. Cuban troops will be directly involved in the fighting."

## American prisons in crisis

### A short fuse and a history of rioting

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

America's prisons are in crisis. The tougher sentencing of recent years - a response to public demand for sterner treatment of criminals - has filled many jails to overflowing.

Prison governors are concerned that overcrowding is stoking up tensions which could erupt into rioting. One talks of his prison as a time bomb. Attica in New York state, for example, has 2,100 men in its cells - 300 more than the limit set after the 1971 riots in which 43 prisoners and guards died.

The American prison population has doubled in 10 years to 432,000. In some jails, the overcrowded cells can take no more and men are living in tents, basements, gymnasiums and corridors.

In New York city, several hundred prisoners have been released on a judge's orders to relieve pressure on jails. Mr Edward Koch, the outspoken mayor, then accused judges of not working hard enough.

The judges replied that Mr Koch should not push his responsibilities on to the judiciary, and his administration should build more cells. About 12 serious offenders, including five accused of murder and two of rape, somehow got on to the release list in New York. Officials

noticed in time - but one man was arrested and charged with rape two days after he was freed.

The bursting jails are a reflection of the stronger law-and-order mood in America, with tougher and more mandatory sentencing. But although jail space is at a premium, the public is reluctant to pay taxes to finance prison construction and building has been cut back.

Americans are angry about the high rate of crime. Although it fell by about 4 per cent last year, a new report shows that people here have a greater chance of being victims of a violent crime than of being hurt in a traffic accident.



Mayor Koch: Judges not working hard enough

## Somalia to resettle refugees

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Somalia, with the world's highest proportion of refugees to its population, plans to move some of them from overcrowded camps to more permanent settlements where they can become self-supporting.

The problem began in 1978, when hundreds of thousands of ethnic Somalis fled from the semi-desert Ogaden region of Ethiopia after an invasion by Somali troops had been repelled.

The number of refugees was put at well over a million - against a normal population for the country of about four million. Now UN officials estimate that there are about 700,000 refugees in 35 camps in different parts of Somalia.

The Deputy UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Richard Smyser, recently toured many of the camps.

A UN spokesman said there had been a marked improvement. Most camps have adequate water supplies, health and nutrition standards were better and morale among the refugees had improved.

However, the enmity between Somalia and Ethiopia, which reached a peak in 1978, makes it virtually impossible for the countries to devise any plan for the refugees to return to the Ogaden.

## Pilots 'too emotional' after air crashes

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's airline pilots were yesterday accused by the Government of reacting emotionally to the two recent air disasters.

Señor Enrique Barón, the Transport and Tourism Minister, made the accusation when defending safety equipment at Spanish airports.

Speaking at a specially summoned press conference at which senior tourism officials were also present, the minister emphasized the need for strict observance of travel safety regulations to avoid increasing Spain's accident toll.

Linking the pilots with train drivers and motorists, Señor Barón said: "It is true in Spain we can improve respect for systems of safety."

The one-year-old Socialist Government, which has appointed new directors at half the country's airports, was, Señor Barón said, making a great effort to improve supervision of all transport.

Señor Barón virtually rejected all the criticism voiced by Spanish pilots after the head-on collision last week between two Spanish jets in dense fog at Madrid which killed 93 people. Only 10 days before that disaster, a South American jumbo crashed coming in to land at Madrid, with the loss of 181 lives.

The Minister said it was at the discretion of the airlines whether planes should fly in near minimal weather conditions.

The director-general of tourism said at the meeting that no reroutings of tourist groups had occurred after the recent disasters, but there had been individual cancellations.

No adverse comments on Madrid's Barajas airport had come from British pilots, the Transport Minister said. Gatwick was using the same systems, he said.

Answering the pilots' charge that if Barajas had ground radar, the head-on collision could have been avoided, Señor Barón said a similar accident had occurred in Chicago two years ago where the airport had such a system.

With only a few days of fog a year at Madrid, the problem was really how best to select safety priorities. Señor Pedro Tena, the director-general of civil aviation, emphasized. He suggested that doubling existing radar flight control equipment might be preferable.

## Bush tells El Salvador to stop death squads

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

Vice-President George Bush has informed the Government of El Salvador that aid to the country may not continue unless there is an end to killings by right-wing death squads.

US officials in San Salvador said the purpose of Mr Bush's visit was to impress upon President Avaro Magana and his Defence Minister, General Carlos Vides Casanova, the genuine concern of the Reagan Administration about human rights violations in the country.

Mr Bush pressed the point at a dinner in his honour and reiterated it at a press conference given prior to his departure.

He described the killings as the "murderous violence of reactionary minorities" and said El Salvador would find it difficult to get the aid it deserved unless the death squads were stopped.

An independent human rights organization in the country estimates that up to 40,000 civilians have been killed by the security forces and the death squads in the past four years.

The State Department denied an entry visa to Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, the head of the right-wing Arena Party, which has been linked with the death squads.

## 3 accused of island plot

Perth (AFP) - A court here was told yesterday of an alleged plan for a commando-style raid to overthrow the Government of the Comoro Islands, off the East African coast.

Three men - Walter John Pilgrim, aged 54, Edward Arthur Greengrove, aged 42, and Frederick John Patrick, aged 46 - appeared at a

preliminary hearing in the Perth magistrates' court, charged under sections of the Crimes Act.

The court heard that a former ruler of the Comoro Islands was seeking to be reinstated and the scheme was for Mr Pilgrim to recruit men to overthrow the Government.

## Power change in Venezuela

Dr Jaime Lusinchi, aged 59, who was formally proclaimed President-elect of Venezuela yesterday after the Supreme Electoral Council confirmed Democratic Action's landslide victory over the ruling Christian Democrats in elections on December 4.

He will take office in early February. (Colin Harding writes). His party will have an absolute majority in both houses of Congress, with its 118 seats in the lower house more than double those of the Christian Democrats.



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# Portugal offers to act as go-between in Falklands negotiations

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Portugal has offered to transmit Argentina's views on the Falkland Islands dispute to the British Government, Senhor Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, revealed in Buenos Aires. It was the second West European nation to offer to intercede with Britain in search for a negotiated solution to the Falklands problem; France made a similar proposal on Sunday. Senhor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, who carried Mrs Thatcher's Note congratulating the new Argentine Government, has also offered to carry any return messages.

Senhor Soares made his offer during a private meeting with President Raúl Alfonsín two days after the new Argentine leader took office and put an end to the military Government responsible for last year's war in the South Atlantic.

"We are in a position to transmit Argentina's opinions to the British Government and to point out the importance of this change to democracy," Senhor Soares told reporters after meeting Señor Alfonsín.

The Prime Minister added that the inauguration of President Alfonsín was "well viewed" in West Europe and would "facilitate a dialogue within the framework of the United Nations about the problem of the Malvinas (Falklands) Islands."

The French Prime Minister, M. Pierre Mauroy, hinted on Sunday that Paris might be ready to shift its position on the Falklands as part of its support for Argentina's new democratic Government.

M. Mauroy told a press conference: "France never voted against Argentina in the United Nations, it only abstained, and Alfonsín was not President when that occurred." He also promised that France would open a dialogue with the British to bring about negotiations soon with Argentina in the Falklands.

President Alfonsín's Government was expected to begin announcing its first measures after being inaugurated formally on Saturday. Officials at the Economics Ministry said they would impose indirect price controls on Argentine businesses to halt the soaring inflation rate.

A thorough reform of the armed forces, promised by Señor Alfonsín during his campaign, is also expected to be among the first measures taken. Newspapers on Sunday reported that the Government had chosen General Mario Fernandez Torres as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a move which would drive many high-ranking generals into retirement.

Government officials have not confirmed these reports and said the names of military appointees would be released this week.

The Government's purge is expected to be particularly severe in the Army because it has not weeded out officers responsible for Argentina's defeat in the Falklands war. President Alfonsín has also blamed senior military officers for human rights abuses and the disappearance of up to 30,000 people in a period of repression which began as a fight against left-wing guerrillas.

## Mystery of businessman's death

### Bodies, denials and hints of spying

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

French police are still keeping an open mind about the death of Mr. Niall Campbell, the ICI employee, who was shot in Paris on December 1. Further tests on the body were carried out yesterday in Brest.

The initial post-mortem examination showed that he had drowned, but police would like to know if he was given any drugs or was hit before he fell or was pushed into the sea. There is a wound on his forehead, but it is not clear whether he received it before or after he drowned.

Mr. Campbell, aged 42, was married with two children and worked as an assistant planning manager for ICI's fibres division in Harrogate. He came to Paris for a routine business visit on November 30 and booked into his usual hotel, the Vernet, in the 8th arrondissement.

The next day, December 1, he brought his suitcase down to the lobby, saying he was planning to leave that evening. After attending meetings at ICI's Paris offices in the morning, he lunched with colleagues, before returning to the hotel to leave his briefcase, containing his passport, return air ticket and some money, saying he was going shopping. He was never seen alive again.

On December 2, the French Maritime Police picked up a body which had been washed up on to the rocks near Brest, not far from the French nuclear submarine base on the Ile Longue. The post-mortem showed the man had died at about midnight on December 1, but he was not identified until last Saturday, more than a week later.

Neither Mr Campbell's wife nor ICI know why he should

suddenly have gone to Brest. There have been rumours, however, that he was approached by the British Secret Service shortly before leaving for Paris.

The Foreign Office has denied any connexion between Mr Campbell and the intelligence services, as it would have to even if true.



Mr Campbell: What was he doing near Brest?

The rumours were fed by the disappearance from Paris of a second British businessman, Mr. Robert Graham, a newly-married accountant, aged 27, with the London-based Transport Development Group.

French police have stepped up their search for Mr. Graham, but insist there is no evidence to suggest any link between the cases.

More excitement was generated by reports that a headless, armless body had been found washed up on the rocks near where Mr Campbell's body had been found. It now appears that no such body has been found in the past fortnight.

## Kohl tries to woo Andropov

Bonn (Reuters) - Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday urged Moscow to preserve top-level contacts with the West and invited President Andropov to visit Bonn.

Addressing a leadership meeting of his Christian Democratic Party (CDU), he also said he would welcome a summit between President Andropov and President Reagan next year.

The West, he said, would keep all doors open for agreement on limiting intermediate and medium-range nuclear missiles, reducing conventional forces and banning all chemical weapons from Europe.

"We will also use every chance of cooperation in other areas - political, economic, cultural and humanitarian," Dr Kohl said. "For this reason, I expressly repeat my invitation to General Secretary Andropov."

During his Moscow visit last July, Chancellor Kohl invited Mr Andropov to come to Bonn. The invitation was accepted but no date has yet been discussed.

Dr Kohl, who has been eager to maintain contacts with Moscow despite East-West frictions over deployment of new US nuclear arms in Europe, said his Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, would meet early next year.

Chancellor Kohl's address, was described by diplomats here as highly conciliatory.

Later he told a press reception in West Berlin that Bonn would consider steps to improve relations with Poland and East Germany. Relations with East Germany, he said, were particularly important.

## Tensions in Israel, Jordan and Lebanon



Face from the past: Mr Menachem Begin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, arriving at his new flat in the Beit Hakarem quarter of Jerusalem. He has disappeared into voluntary seclusion as a result of deep depression on September 6.

## Bethlehem security fears grow

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Fears are mounting about security during Christmas Eve celebration in the Israeli-occupied town of Bethlehem after a new campaign of violence against Arab and Christian targets.

The televised celebrations in Bethlehem's Manger Square have long been regarded as a prestige target for both Palestinian and Jewish terrorist groups. Strict security precautions are already in force.

The latest attacks took place yesterday in the Palestinian village of Hussan, only two miles from Bethlehem, where three Israeli Army issue grenades - each professionally booby-trapped with a hair trigger mechanism - were placed by Arab targets.

One exploded when a woman opened the front door of her

house while the other two were defused by the security forces.

The grenades were similar to four planted last Friday at Christian institutions close to Jerusalem's Mount Zion and a fifth at a mosque at Beit Safa, another village close to Bethlehem. All were booby-trapped.

Another army issue grenade exploded on Friday night in the main shopping street in the annexed Arab sector of Jerusalem and six Arab-owned cars were vandalized in the village of Abu Tor on Jerusalem's outskirts.

Israeli security forces believe that a right-wing Jewish terrorist group is responsible for the attacks, which appear to be part of a campaign begun two weeks ago.

The campaign had become noticeably more violent in the

wake of last week's Jerusalem bus bomb attack in which five Jews were killed, including three schoolgirls.

One police officer said that the professionalism of the grenade attacks indicated the possibility that the perpetrators had had army training.

Extra security measures have been instituted to try to prevent more attacks at a time of high tension between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City.

TEL AVIV: Israeli authorities have demolished the homes of three alleged guerrillas accused of killing a Jewish seminary student in the West Bank town of Hebron (Reuters reports).

The authorities also sealed off four other homes of alleged terrorists in Hebron and Ramallah, military officials said.

## Britons held at gunpoint in Beirut

From Robert Fisk Beirut

Three British soldiers attached to the multinational force in Lebanon were stopped and detained for an hour by gunmen from the Amal Shia Muslim militia yesterday after they had accidentally driven their Land Rover into the Beirut al-Barach suburb not far from the British base in southern Beirut.

The Amal militiamen, who originally thought the troops were Americans - despite the Union flag attached to their vehicle - later released the Britons unharmed.

A spokesman for the 97-strong British contingent, who failed to explain how the soldiers could have taken a wrong turning so near to their headquarters, said that the men "negotiated their own release" and that their weapons had not been taken from them.

● Arafat appeal: The Lebanese Army accused Druze militia of breaking the civil war ceasefire yesterday as official efforts again failed to reactivate a security committee charged with stabilizing the truce. Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, asked for protection against an Israeli air attack on his loyalist guerrillas as they assembled at Tripoli's harbour to board Greek ships that will evacuate them.

The military command here said army positions had come under Druze artillery and rocket fire.

## We are at the edge, says Husain

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

King Husain of Jordan in an American television interview described conditions in the Middle East area as very dangerous.

"We are all at the edge of a precipice and the (Middle East) area is threatened," he said in a satellite interview from Jordan on Sunday.

Asked to what extent the Soviet presence in Syria posed a threat to Jordan and Middle East peace, the king replied: "The danger in the area is of polarization."

He reiterated that certain conditions would have to be

met and he would have to have Palestinian participation and support before he could enter into any negotiations with Israel on a Middle East settlement.

King Husain said that Israel's illegal settlement activities on the occupied West Bank were continuing to create obstacles.

Questioned about the fighting with the Palestine Liberation Organization the King said: "We will continue to do business with a PLO which represents the people of Palestine and their hopes and aspirations." He added that any PLO organization that was

subservient to the will or policies of any Arab state or any force in the world "is certainly one that we would not recognize."

King Husain said that the United States has a contribution to make to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

It certainly could do that as a superpower interested in peace in the area. "But it cannot do it if it has embarked upon a course that would make it an ally of Israel - in other words, an ally of a belligerent in the tragedy in which we all live."

## New EEC spirit on budget

From Ian Murray Strasbourg

The European Parliament was last night moving towards acceptance of the Community's 1984 budget, despite the failure of the Athens summit last week. But a question mark still hangs over the future of the agreed British rebate of £457m, which the Government wants paid by the end of March.

At the previous reading of the budget in the Parliament in October, members of most parties threatened to block it unless there was real progress in Athens. They also blocked all the money for Britain in the budget and tried to put a freeze on five per cent of all agricultural spending.

But from the opening speeches in last night's debate, it was clear that a new spirit of compromise is sweeping through the Parliament. The threat of Community bankruptcy appeared to have united the strong farming lobbies.

Mme Christiane Scrivener, the French liberal MEP, who is rapporteur for the budget, told the Assembly last night that the Athens failure required members to show they could override national selfishness and find constructive solutions. The important thing, she said, was for Parliament to behave responsibly to help the Community out of its present crisis.

As far as the British and West German rebates are concerned, she was less obviously seeking conciliation.

## Base blockade broken

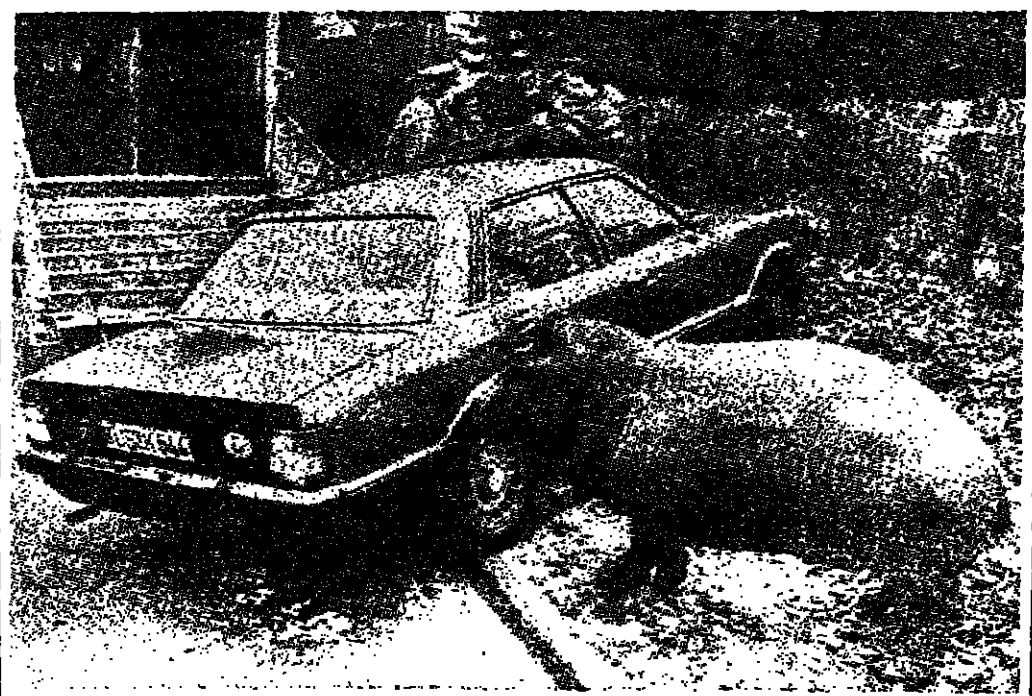
From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Riot police used water cannon against anti-nuclear demonstrators who blockaded an American military depot in Frankfurt yesterday.

About 150 demonstrators tried to prevent a West German Army lorry from entering the depot, in the Hausen district, which the peace movement claims is used to assemble parts for Pershing 2 missiles.

Up to 40 people were detained, 30 of them for allegedly insulting the police by swearing and spitting at them.

In Mühlanger, near Stuttgart, where West Germany's first Pershing 2 missiles are believed to be deployed, 100 demonstrators tried to blockade a US Army base. However, police carried them off the road, detaining 15 of them.



Traffic offence: A runaway hippopotamus from a West German circus attacks a police car before being hustled into a horse van at Kassel.

## Islamic scholars brand Syria as anti-Muslim

Islamabad (Reuters) - An international conference of Islamic scholars said yesterday that Muslims were being persecuted in Syria, Uganda and Ethiopia.

A communiqué issued at the end of the conference said the scholars expressed horror over the systematic persecution of Muslims in Syria on "a scale and in a brutal manner that has few parallels in history."

## Riot police on stand-by in Gdansk and Warsaw

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's leaders have been visiting some of the country's main industrial troublespots on the Baltic coast in an effort to dissuade workers from following the siren call of the Solidarity underground for demonstrations and protest marches this week.

In case gentle persuasion fails columns of motorized Riot Police (Zomo) have been moving into place in both Gdansk and Warsaw.

There are two possible booby traps the Government may have to cope with this week. The first comes today, the second anniversary of the declaration of martial law by General Jaruzelski.

Although Solidarity has not called for unrest today, the anniversary is sure to bring some trouble. A number of factory cells have been discussing the possibility of small-scale wreath-laying ceremonies and chanting.

But Friday, the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of

workers during the food riot on the Baltic coast, is seen as the most volatile date. In Gdansk, Mr Lech Walesa will attempt to make a public speech announcing new plans for the banned Solidarity trade union, while opposition groups in Nowa Huta, Warsaw and Wrocław have been organizing protest marches.

● Mrs Walesa home: Mrs Danuta Walesa, the wife of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, yesterday returned from the awards ceremony in Oslo to Warsaw airport which police sealed off to prevent any show of popular support for her husband (Reuters reports).

Mrs Walesa, accompanied by her eldest son, Bogdan, was welcomed by her husband and the family's close friend and adviser, Father Henryk Jankowski of Gdansk.

Motorists who could not produce airline tickets or were not accredited journalists were turned back by police.

## Parents of crippled baby win appeal

The United States Supreme Court refused yesterday to order surgeons to operate on Baby Jane Doe, the non-week-old infant with multiple birth defects whose case has aroused a nationwide controversy (Trevor Fishlock writes).

Baby Jane, whose real name is a secret, was born with an abnormally small head and brain, water on the brain and spine bifida, an exposed spine.

Her parents were told that without surgery she would be unlikely to live beyond two. Surgery would give her a chance of living to 20, but she would be in pain, retarded, paralyzed and epileptic.

The decided against surgery, but right-to-life group persuaded a court to order surgery and appoint a lawyer as the baby's guardian. This order was subsequently overturned in an appeal court and yesterday the Supreme Court in Washington supported the appeal court's action.

## Lisbon's new army chief

Lisbon-Portugal's Cabinet has chosen General Jorge da Costa Salazar Braga to succeed General Garcia dos Santos as Army Chief of Staff (Martha de la Cal writes).

General Salazar Braga, aged 58, served in Angola and Guinea Bissau and has also been a professor in the Institute for Advanced Military Studies. He has no known political affiliations.

## Peru guerrillas 'aid drug trade'

Lima (AP) - The Peru Government says it has proof that international cocaine traffickers and Maoist guerrillas are working together in Peru's insurgency zone.

An extraordinary session of the senate was held in a special report that the guerrillas provide protection to illegal cocaine traffickers in return for money, arms and clothes.

## Scalp reform

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese Buddhist monks and nuns are being urged to scrap a 1,000-year-old initiation rite of burning bare patches on the scalp because it is bad for their health. The Buddhist association's national council, meeting in Peking, will abolish the custom if provincial Buddhist associations agree.

## Barents talks

Moscow (Reuters)-Norway and the Soviet Union opened talks intended to break a 12-year deadlock on rights to the Barents Sea. At stake are the rights to 60,000 square miles of Arctic continental shelf seabed believed to hold extensive oil deposits.

## Buried protest

Brisbane (Reuters) - Ten people protesting at the building of a road in a rain forest in Cape Tribulation Park, Queensland, were arrested after they had buried themselves in front of a bulldozer. Other protesters chained and roped themselves to branches.

## Fine gesture

Bonn-West German police in all states except Lower Saxony and West Berlin will show a spirit of goodwill to traffic offenders during the Christmas period by delaying postage of notices of fines. This is to avoid "disturbance of the family feast days".

## Students shot

Peshawar (AFP) - Ten students were injured, one seriously, when police opened fire here on students from a commercial college, demonstrating for increased grants and a return to democracy in Pakistan.

## Silent chimes

Copenhagen (AP) - The city's town hall clock stood still yesterday when 10 anti-nuclear demonstrators stopped the noon chimes from ringing for the first time since they were installed in 1903.

## Nota bene

Rome (AP) - The Bank of Italy announced yesterday it will change all Italian banknotes at the beginning of the New Year. The new bills will be more sensitive to electronic machines used to detect fakes.

## HAPPILY, THE BUCHANAN BLEND IS STARTING TO SHOW ITS AGE.



a smooth marriage between the consistency of grain whiskies and the character of malt whiskies.

And its success was rapid and vast. The Buchanan Blend became a favoured drink everywhere from Music Halls to noble households and founded a world-wide export market.

While James Buchanan went on to become a Peer, a philanthropist and the owner of two Derby winners.

THE BUCHANAN BLEND TODAY The Buchanan Blend may not be the easiest brand to find in the shops. But it rewards the determined seeker.

As already mentioned, the youngest whisky in the Blend is a full 8 years old.

Which is rare even among the good quality brands.

And another distinctive difference is the goodly measure of matured malt whisky that can be tasted in every dram of The Buchanan Blend.



A little extra maturity makes remarkable differences to whisky. That's why the minimum of 3 years maturing necessary to become a 'Scotch Whisky' is not enough for the quality brands.

It is exactly this pursuit of excellence which ensures that the youngest whisky in The Buchanan Blend is a full 8 years old - a fact now proudly displayed on the bottle.

Of course, you can find even older whiskies, but generally at much higher prices.

It is simply The Buchanan Blend's lot to be somewhat superior among the good quality brands.

Apart from the new label, The Buchanan Blend has long shown its age in a quite different sense: it is one of the earliest of the great whisky names still enduring.

Back in the 1880s, whisky was unpopular outside Scotland.

It varied widely in quality and strength and many attempts were being made to balance the drink by blending.

One of the first men to succeed with such a blend was James Buchanan, once a £10-a-year Glasgow shipping clerk. His new 'Buchanan Blend' was

مكتبة من الأصل



# Moscow admits mishaps as cosmonauts tell of fuel leak on Salyut 7

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet space officials have stated publicly for the first time that the orbiting space station Salyut 7 suffered a fuel leak recently and that a replacement cosmonaut crew had a narrow escape when their rocket launcher exploded. Both mishaps were earlier reported in the West but denied in Moscow.

At a Moscow press conference, Commander Vladimir Lyakhov, who spent 149 days on board Salyut 7, said that the station had continued to function normally.

The two replacement cosmonauts had been catapulted to safety, but their Soyuz mission was abandoned. "We were told immediately," Lyakhov said, "and our flight lasted longer than expected. Our programme of work was expanded."

Lyakhov and Aleksandrov finally returned to Earth on 23 November, using the same Soyuz T9 craft which had brought them to the space station. Officials could not confirm that the return had been hazardous. Lyakhov said they had not been in danger and could have returned at any time.

Vladimir Shtalov, the head of cosmonaut training, admitted there had been problems on Salyut 7 after a fuel leak in a

sub-system used for manoeuvring the giant 47-ton space complex. He said the sub-system had been closed down and the station had continued to function normally.



Commander Lyakhov: "We were not in danger."

American reports in November said Salyut 7 had begun to wallow badly after a propellant fuel leak, and that the two cosmonauts on board might have to be rescued.

Both Lyakhov and Aleksandrov described what could have turned into a serious crisis in almost laconic terms, minimizing the hazards and emphasizing the scientific experiments carried out during the mission.

Aleksandrov described the "emotionally charged" experi-

ence of going outside the space station to install extra solar batteries supplied by the unmanned cargo craft Cosmos 1443 and Progress 18. He said knowing that only a thin space suit separated one from space was an extraordinary sensation. The Earth below was dark, "as in a shadow play", and small objects dropped by the cosmonauts looked like stars.

Mr Shtalov, striking a more prosaic note, said the solar batteries were for energy supplies used in experiments and had no connection with the fuel leak.

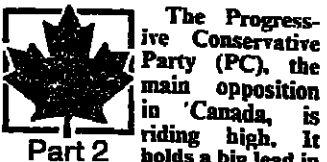
He said Salyut 7 was in good condition, and further crews would visit it next year, including an international crew containing Indian cosmonauts now being trained in Russia.

Officials told the press conference that in addition to the space station programme the Soviet Union was carrying out research into an American-style reusable shuttle craft but there were complications.

The two cosmonauts appeared to be fit and well, and said they had adapted quickly from weightlessness to Earth after initial difficulties in walking. Soviet scientists have expressed concern about the effects of prolonged weightlessness on the physical and psychological well being of the cosmonauts.

## Canadian Tories rejuvenated by scent of victory Youthful image peps up the political contest

Concluding his series from Ottawa on the Canadian political scene, Ivan Barnes, Foreign News Editor, reports on the leadership of the two main federal parties.



Part 2 The Progressive Conservative Party (PC), the main opposition in Canada, is riding high. It holds a big lead in opinion polls over the governing Liberal Party and scents victory in the general election which must be held within 15 months.

Fundamental to its high morale is the new, young leader. Six months ago Mr Brian Mulroney, a 44-year-old businessman from Quebec, won the leadership. He entered the House of Commons in September with victory in a by-election in Nova Scotia, his first elective office.

One reason, above all others, probably led the Tories to choose Mr Mulroney: they saw him as a winner. They were shaking off the memory of Mr Joe Clark's muffled opportunity in 1979-80, when he briefly led the PC in a minority government.

Without doubt, the Tories have their best opportunity in decades to effect a fundamental change in Canadian politics. The prize for them is their return to the role of a truly national party, a party of government, not permanent opposition.

Ms Janis Johnson, the national director, brims with confidence. "For the first time



Toryism's new faces: Brian Mulroney and his wife Mila wearing the winning smiles that boosted party morale.

in ages", she said, "the party is positive, confident and disciplined."

The Liberals have allowed this, in her opinion, by their movement leftwards. "People

have had it up to here", Ms Johnson said, "with pseudo-socialism".

She talks easily of what improvements two terms of Tory government will make



John Turner: Young hope for the worried Liberals.

Many Liberals now see their man, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, as a loser. They want a young standard-bearer to match, and outmatch, Mr Mulroney.

One man is always mentioned in any list of replacements, should Mr Trudeau quit. Mr John Turner is named by Liberals as the probable front-runner whether they support the idea of his leadership or not, and despite the fact that he has been out of parliamentary politics for nearly eight years.

There is considerable antipathy between the two Liberals. Mr Turner may have been a crown prince for more than a decade, but there is no leader's blessing for this recognized heir, as has generally been the case for Liberals in the past.

Unless the looming Tory threat and its own desperate position cause Liberal minds to concentrate wonderfully, Mr Turner faces a contest, rather

than a walkover, if Mr Trudeau goes. Many hats could be in the ring.

Mr Turner, however, has a strong following. He has maintained a network of contacts in the party since he left government. At 54, he is 10 years younger than Mr Trudeau. He is an "Anglo" and the Liberal tradition that the two main language groups take turns as leader has not broken yet.

Most important is whether Liberals believe Mr Turner is their winner. If they do, the job could be his. Meanwhile, the beleaguered party awaits Mr Trudeau's decision and banks on the Tories making mistakes. That has certainly been the Tory way. Their last two administrations have shown a remarkable tendency for self-immolation. Mr Mulroney, sensibly, is keeping quiet on policy matters. Liberals are confident he will cause great fissures in his party once he is forced to take a stand.

It is the Grits (as the Liberals are commonly known) who win elections, who know how to run politics: Tories splinter, argue in public, ruin their chances.

At this stage, it seems that only a miracle can save the Liberals - with or without Mr Trudeau. The Tories know, however, that it would not be prudent to write off the party which has governed Canada for about 50 of the last 62 years, or the man who is the West's senior statesman.

Concluded

## Prisoners of conscience



### Uruguay: Ismael Sena

By Caroline Moorehead

A 45-year-old telephone engineer, father of eight-year-old twins, is one of a growing number of Uruguayan political prisoners whose physical state is causing anxiety.

Ismael Sena, detained since 1975 and charged with "subversive association", has an untreated stomach ulcer. He shares a cell 6ft by 9ft with another prisoner and can leave it for only 45 minutes of exercise each day.

Senior Sena was a delegate for his union and worked in his home town of Montevideo when he and his wife, Alicia, were arrested in October, 1975.

Alicia was released in 1978, but her husband spent six months in detention blindfolded - and was, it is believed, repeatedly tortured - before being moved to a military barracks and then to Libertad prison, known for its harsh treatment and inadequate medical care.

Although no evidence was produced at his trial that he had used or advocated violence, Senior Sena was sentenced by a military court to nine years' detention. Despite petitions and the state of his health there is no suggestion of a reprieve.



Ismael Sena: Spent six months blindfolded.

## Ershad's partial clemency

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

The new President of Bangladesh started his first full day in office by declaring that he was prepared to talk to any of the politicians about his timetable for restoring democracy.

Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the chief martial law administrator, who made himself President on Sunday began his new role by releasing four women political leaders who have been held under house arrest.

They were Begum Khalida Zia, widow of former President Ziaur Rahman; Shaikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of the late Prime Minister; Shaikh Mujibur Rahman; Mrs Motia Chowdhury and Mrs Ivy Rahman, both leaders of the Awami League.

Four male political leaders, however, who were arrested with them after the disturbances on November 28 remain in jail.

President Ershad's benevolence towards the politicians is very much linked to how they react to his offer of talks. He is plainly prepared to be flexible over the timing of presidential and parliamentary elections.

The politicians are keen to have parliamentary elections before presidential elections, so as to build themselves a power base in the country before tackling General Ershad in a presidential contest.

But on one of their demands he was quite inflexible: he will not withdraw martial law until after the elections have been held. "Some one has to run this country," he said. He is still not ready to lift the restrictions clamped down on political activity after the November 28 demonstrations.

Surrounded by a throng of journalists under the huge chandeliers of the Bangabhaban, the presidential palace, which used to be the home of the governors of East Bengal, he added: "I asked the politicians to explain what happened that day. But they couldn't."

The demonstration which started out quite mildly went out of hand as a crowd attempted to force its way into the government secretariat.

## Swoop on ANC as sacred date looms

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Ten people were arrested in a police swoop on African National Congress (ANC) suspects believed to be involved in a plot to launch a terror campaign to coincide with South Africa's Day of the Vow on Friday, the most sacred date in the Afrikaner calendar. It commemorates the victory in 1838 of the Voortrekkers over the armies of the Zulu king, Dingaan, at the so-called Battle of Blood River. But it is also the anniversary of the formation of the ANC's military arm, Umkonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation).

A police spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday that further arrests were possible. General Johan Coetzee, Commissioner of Police, confirmed that large arms caches had been discovered after a shoot-out in the coloured township of Eldorado Park, near Johannesburg, last week.

One of the people arrested was a prominent ANC member, General Coetzee.

The shoot-out, he said, came during police investigations into an attempt in October to kill Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister.

## Ozal Cabinet delayed

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's conservative Prime Minister-designate, submitted the list of his Government to President Kenan Evren yesterday, only to be told that its scrutiny would take at least a day.

Mr Ozal chairman of the Motherland Party, which secured a safe majority in the 400-seat Parliament in last month's elections avoided giving any reason for the unaccustomed

delay in approval of the Cabinet list, he merely told reporters that the list would "probably" be made public today, hinting at "surprise appointments".

He declined to comment on speculation that the delay might be caused by the inclusion in the list of names outside Parliament, or to be more precise, those who were vetoed earlier by the military regime.

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If two members of your household wish to open an account, please use both of these application forms provided. Additional application forms are available from the post office.





FASHION by Suzy Menkes

# Exit Jennifer (stage left)

Just as *Cinderella* opens at the National Theatre this week, the principal lizard has slid offstage. Jennifer Hall, daughter of Sir Peter and film star Leslie Caron, has abandoned the boards after a quarter of a century (from birth to now) in the acting world. Last month she was Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, now her personal career of stardom is finished.

Jennifer Hall has her mother's mouth, her father's eyes and a mind of her own. Her current change of career is for love and marriage — she is to marry farmer Alex Clive and swap the South Bank for apple orchards.

"Acting is something that takes up the whole of your emotional life," says Jennifer. "I wouldn't want to act half heartedly."

Her last dramatic switch of roles was when she abandoned Cambridge University three years ago to take up acting. "Then I was in love with acting but now I have changed." The path to the National Theatre, provincial pavings, a variety of parts from *Macbeth* to Beckett.

Variety is the spice of her life and of her wardrobe. She dresses, like her mother, in casual evening dresses, trousers and sporty separates. Yet she hankers for a glamorous style, a shimmering leather skirt or a cascade of spicy colour.

"I suppose that I haven't quite found my style yet," she admits. "I find that I am always changing. I used to wear garage mechanics overalls and awful old jackets. I never had a feeling about dressing up for the theatre. It was rather a question of dressing down."

Jennifer Hall is tall and striking with Leslie Caron's features. "I remember my mother at the time never to, wait directly at the camera," says Jennifer. "She claimed to make your face look fat. But I think that after years at film school being forced to do the MGM smile, she just never wanted to turn it on again."

Jennifer Hall's high-wattage smile beamed out at the sight of the clothes I had brought to the studio, especially Kenzo's bold, wide jacket with a peacock shirt and a scarf woven with brilliant colour.

"I love colour," she says. "My most important experience of colour was in India. I studied the philosophy in Madras and the depth of the green of the grass in the fields was simply delicious."

England has always been her home, from school days at Bedale to undergraduate years at Cambridge, a brief taste of life in Chelsea and now the quiet Gloucestershire countryside. She has no favourite British shop or designers, buying her clothes wherever she finds something that appeals. Her most recent change of image came not from a new outfit, but by cutting off her luxuriant chestnut-brown hair.

French. One of her favourite fashion memories is "a week spent with my mother at the Plaza Athénée going round with her to see all the most amazing and wonderful French clothes. I was only about 11 or 12, and she bought me the most beautiful things. I've passed them on to my little half-sister."

Her father helped her through rep by reading parts with her. When they were physically much closer at the National Theatre, there was paradoxical little professional contact. He is now rather sad that she has given up acting "because the theatre means so much to him."

Asked whether she ever felt in the fashion shadow of her mother, she replied that her mother was simply delicious.

Part of her, she says, feels out of a different fashion part.



Left: Jennifer Hall wears Kenzo's checked jacket, bright scarf and flannel trousers from Kenzo, 13 South Molton Street and 77 Sloane Street. Above: Yves Saint Laurent's black suit with minkstone buttons from Yves St Laurent, 13 New Bond Street and 2507 Broadway, New York. Below: Stormy Krombie's big-shouldered sweatshirt and wide-leg trousers from Stormy Krombie, 27 South Molton Street.



## FASHION BOOKS

### Visual treats for Christmas

Fashion Drawing by Vogue (Thames and Hudson £20) is a big and beautiful book. Although William Packard's book is actually about the history of fashion illustration, it is a high standard. It is a collection of sketches, many of which are by the famous fashion illustrators who have worked for the magazine since it was launched by Vogue in 1909. Even the young Cecil Beaton, known for his lyrical camera work, used pen and ink on fashion socialites in 1933. Some of the most fascinating



studies are portraits, like Bouché's 1961 drawing of Jacqueline Kennedy.

In our own time, only the Spanish-born fashion illustrator Antonio has captured the sense of style which is vividly represented in the earlier work, right up to Eric's poignant studies of grand hats at the height of the war. (The search for artists in wartime encouraged Vogue to use the young Ruskin Spear). David Hockney writes an introduction and one displays his delicate drawing of Celia Birtwell in her own print dress as one of the many full colour pages.

Twentieth Century British Jewellery: 1900-1980 by Peter Hinks (Faber and Faber £27.50) is a serious book written with the lightness of touch that makes it interesting for a general reader as well as indispensable for students of the craft of jewellery. The art and craft story is the tale that Peter Hinks has to tell, from the movement of that name in the early part of this century to the designer-craftsman revival of our own time.

His discussion of changing fashions in jewelry (lavishly illustrated in colour and black and white) becomes a study of particular jewellers, as the school output in the 1960s began a new image. Mr Hinks, the head of jewelry at Sotheby's, is particularly interesting about the explosion of design talent in the liberated shapes and lines of jewelry.

The surreal and fantastic strains in modern jewelry is paralleled by the art nouveau fascination with medievalism and mythology. Jokey and

## How to get ahead at Christmas parties

Get into the festive spirit for a party that is the top this Christmas. Hair styling is the secret way to ring the changes for seasonal celebrations from now through to the New Year, and pretty accessories quickly transform an everyday style into night-time glamour.

Combos, and bands, decorated with real feathers, shimmering sequins and new frocks will alter are available at Clive's Stafford's West End salon, and can be ordered to match a special outfit. Fenwick has a wide range of velvet bows, beaded with diamonds and solid hair slides to help the festive spirit get a grip on you.

Colourful lengths of unspun wool add a soft touch to wind-buffed locks. Molton Brown's Hair Knots can be twisted, plaited and knotted in any thickness or colour combination and come in a kit, or by the metre.

The present mood for hair styling follows the clean lines of the 1960s — sleek, pulled back and knotted. The hair is styled in a way that is both elegant and sexy, with a touch of the 1960s.

Before you begin to style, wash with a fine mist of setting lotion or water to make the hair more pliable. Then, using a comb, brush the hair into a smooth, straight line. Then, using a comb, brush the hair into a smooth, straight line.

Right: Soft roll knotted with unspun wool, seven colours in a kit, £5.95 from Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street, W1; Harrods; Harvey Nichols; Liberty. Hair by Vicky, make-up by Elena, both for Molton Brown. Photographs by NICK BRIGGS

hair smooth to handle and to prevent wispy ends escaping later on.

Retro styles, like teased bobs and beehives, are sexy and fun for partying. If you have a fringe, get the drama up front by taking it up and back using gel, sweeping the sides away from the face. Try blow-drying hair from underneath, with head tilted forward to create height and movement. For shine or extra gloss, use a hair spray or a hair oil.

Christine Paine

Christmas jewelry seems to be a recurring theme, with some splendid smokes accessories from the Birds when cigarettes were sophisticated and smart. MD Books suggests that the Christmas party jewelry is designed to emphasize the tenderness and vulnerability of the female creature. He is equally acute on the current trend towards jewelry as sculpture, designed against the natural lines of the female body that it is supposed to adorn. This "body sculpture" may be aesthetically pleasing but it widens the gap between designers and trade which the Arts and Crafts movement began.

The Fashion Year Book, General Editor: Brenda Polan (Zomba Books £12.50) is another generously illustrated book dealing with fashions here and now. The collections of 1983 in the world's various fashion capitals are photographed and reviewed in lucid profiles and studies (mostly by the editor). This makes an interesting guided tour through the maze of contemporary fashion and provides a good high fashion source book for fashion buffs or fledgling designers.

Christine Paine

Christine Paine

Christine Paine

Christine Paine

Christine Paine

Christine Paine



There's a wide selection of stylish formal wear at every branch of Young's. Impeccably tailored Evening Wear and Morning Wear that'll make you feel comfortably correct whatever the occasion. For your nearest branch see page 23

Hire or buy at  
**Young's**  
formal wear for men

Right: Soft roll knotted with unspun wool, seven colours in a kit, £5.95 from Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street, W1; Harrods; Harvey Nichols; Liberty. Hair by Vicky, make-up by Elena, both for Molton Brown. Photographs by NICK BRIGGS

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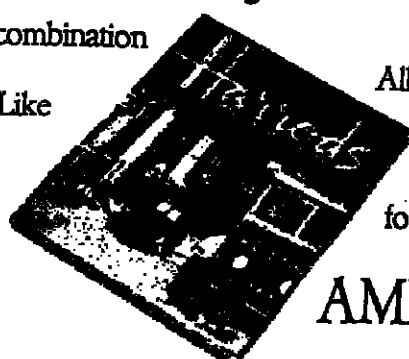


## Naturally Harrods. Naturally the American Express Card.

Harrods and the American Express Card are the natural combination this Christmas.

And they offer a range of fragrant gift ideas for women. Like Chanel No. 5, the classic of all time. 'Ombre Rose' by Charles Brosseau, a romantic new blend of powdery floral notes yet elegant.

Or Harrods 81, a new scent created for Harrods by Floris, available in a presentation of three cut crystal decanters in a handsome taltalus.



You'll find Perfumery and Fragrance on the ground floor. All this and much more appears in the pages of the Harrods Christmas Magazine, available from Harrods and leading newsagents at £1.50, or by post at £2.45.

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## SPECTRUM

## Sir Oswald and the Jews



On July 2, 1940, the founder of the British Union of Fascists, Sir Oswald Mosley, sat down before a government committee appointed to advise on his wartime internment and chaired by Norman Birkett (left). The record of the 16 hours of interrogation remained secret until yesterday, when it was released by the Public Record Office. In the following extract, Birkett began by asking about the BUF's attitude to Jews...

**MOSLEY:** We started in 1932 quite genuinely without any thought of the Jews, no more thinking of them than of the Irish. I had never come across it as a problem and most of our people had not. During those two years we were violently attacked by certain Jewish interests. Our people were persecuted. Our supporters were blackmailed by Jewish interests. I had never looked into the problem. I had at that time never been to Nazi Germany, but I was forced to regard the problem by the action which they took against us. There are many explanations for their action; they may have seen what was happening in Germany and feared we were going to do the same thing, but making all allowances, the fact is that it was their action against us which brought it to my notice and after one or two warnings I violently attacked them.

**BIRKETT:** On what grounds did you attack them? Their whole influence upon national life, I should have said that I had never looked into the problem in any shape or form. I always actually thought it was the work of cranks and always, although they were so opposed to us, I overlooked it and then I said "why are they so opposed to us?" We want to stop certain things. We want to stop international usury. We want to stop the whole money-lending racket. We do not like price cutting. Gradually it dawned upon me that certain people were very much engaged in these things. I was compelled to look at the Jewish problem by their opposition to us and, having looked at the Jewish problem, I developed what is called anti-semitism.

In what year did you first make your declaration against the Jews? October 1934, the Albert Hall meeting. I think it is about October 1934. It will be recorded in the general papers. I previously quarrelled that summer with Lord Rothermere because he saw this coming and he publicly demanded that I should adopt the Conservative policy and should not develop anti-semitism. We had correspondence which was published at the time on the subject, and my first initial attack on the Jews was October 1934. I had then never been in Germany except once when accompanying Mr Ramsay MacDonald in the spring of 1929, when I heard a funny man called Hitler had started a funny movement. I did not meet him.

You would appreciate that a policy of hostility to the Jews at a time when Jews were being oppressed in Germany

would not be very popular among humane people in this country? I think that anti-semitism here has grown colossally in the last few years. When we began it hardly existed.

Do you think the British Union fomented it? Yes, I think it is partly them, and partly us.

Again, part of the policy of the British Union is to stop all immigration, is it not? Stop all foreigners coming in, but gradually and humanely get rid of all foreigners who are here.

That is to say this country would no longer be, as it was in the old days, an asylum for the oppressed? Oh, certainly.

And those who were here would be expelled? Gradually.

And the Jews would be expelled too? Quite right.

Would they be allowed to take their possessions with them? Yes.

Even the "international racketeers" as they are termed? They would be subject, naturally, to inquiry. They would get it like anybody else.

They would come out of that inquiry very badly, would they not? Some, very badly.

And then they would not be allowed to take anything? But we apply the same rule to our own people.

The attitude of the British Union to the Jewish problem arose, I understand you to say, because they had attacked your meetings and you thereupon gave the problem some consideration? Not only attacked our meetings, but there was also the victimization of our people employed by Jews.

In what sense - in the "sweated" industries? Simply dismissed: a girl known to be a Blackshirt was dismissed.

By that time, 1934, the Jews in this country had seen how their co-religionists were being treated in Germany? Very likely that was so.

And they said, no doubt, "this Fascist Movement in Britain is the same type of movement existing in National Socialist Germany"? Yes.

You did adopt the Italian uniform, did you not? No. The coloured shirt? The uniform



actually was I think a mistake. It was an idiosyncrasy of my own: it was based on the fencing jacket, a sport of which I was very fond, and the Italian actually was quite different from our uniform but the colour was the same.

Black? Yes. We began with the grey shirt. I did not want to be like any foreign movement, and it did not succeed, people did not like it, and people wanted the black shirt, which was opposite to the red they were fighting.

May I say, on this question of uniform and what is called dressing up and all the nonsense as they call it, that the basic idea is to put over a new movement in a hurry, to do which you have to adopt completely new ideas. You have an apathetic public who are not prepared to notice anything new, and you have to wake them up and make them sit up. I do not suppose it would be believed for one moment, but I first had the idea of dramatizing politics not in Italy or Germany but in the town of Durham where I used to go every year when I was elected to speak to the Durham Miners' Gala. Every year a hundred thousand miners, I think, used to march into that town with their bunting and bits of colour, march in formation with as much spectacle as they could possibly manage. It then occurred to me: "Why do these people do that? It has obviously a profound psychological motive of some sort".

The answer was their lives are very dull, the British working class and lower middle class have very dull and drab lives, and I came to the conclusion that one of the reasons why the Labour Party was not succeeding was because they were even duller in their presentation of things than the masses to whom they were appealing. The one thing the masses wanted was dramatic colour, and all these silly things, if you like, which the cinema gives to them. I then decided to dramatize politics, and introduce the marching, the dressing up, the symbolism and all the rest of it.

It is suggested that there is reasonable ground for believing that Italian money came. What do you say with regard to that?

I say I do not for one moment believe that, and I cannot see why it should be suggested. I have, as I told you, divorced myself with very great care from the financial side. At the period in question, in particular this period, we quite obviously had the support of very big capitalists. I had not the least difficulty in raising large sums of money for the New Party.

That is to say there is the possibility that Italian money did come to the British Union of which you have no knowledge?

Obviously it is possible; but I will say this, that I have always throughout given instructions, or at least given my advice, that no money should ever be accepted except from British subjects, and provided it was given without condition.

Who would know if any money came from Italy? Any collector who had done it, I suppose, who had got it.

Did you discuss with your movement? No, not in any form.

Was the question of the foundation of a party discussed seven or eight years ago. Oh, naturally, discussed the whole question with him since the movement was founded, certainly I do not think there was any discussion on that point when I first met him, because I think it was before the movement was ever formed.

What is the explanation of the support of the British Union and its policy of other movements, by Mussolini against Abyssinia, by Hitler against Czechoslovakia and elsewhere? No, I do not support their movements.

Would many of your supporters actively assist Germany? No, I do not think so, certainly not.

I do not believe among my own supporters there are any at all who would even sympathize with Germany in a struggle against this country, let alone help her. After all, many of my people are in the forces.

Let me put a matter that may at first sight seem a little irrelevant. You need not trouble about it if it is, but there was a period when Lord Rothermere was giving you large sums of money, was there not? Yes, certainly.

Did they appear in your books? This is in confidence. He was one of the three people who insisted on subscribing through me. Rothermere insisted on subscribing through me. One was a stockbroker, and the other was a Conservative MP whom I prefer not to mention.

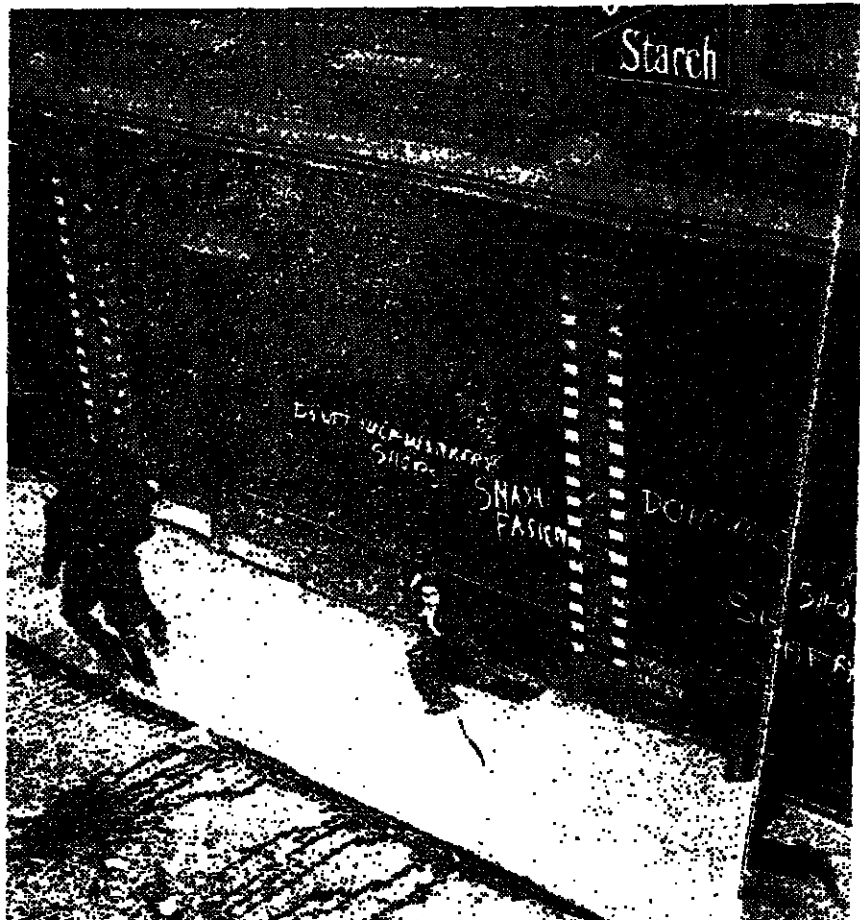
Did they go through the books? I think you would find them under the entry of a gift from me. Rothermere stipulated that the transaction should be done through me. When he did it that was the beginning of his relationship with us but whether he later gave large sums I do not know.

Going through the books, without any knowledge of Lord Rothermere's gift, nobody would be able to discover from the books that Lord Rothermere had been a contributor. No, certainly not.

Why? For reasons, I gathered, which I subsequently found to be true, that his advisers threatened to boycott him, and that was why the Daily Mail stopped backing us, and the Jewish advertisers, Lyons and those sort of people. He was frightened out of his wits, most of these businessmen were. For instance, Lord Nuffield, as was common knowledge in the early days of our party, gave us large sums of money, but he even went so far as to publish in the Jewish Chronicle that he was not supporting us because his cars would have been the subject to a boycott. I do not say that Nuffield supported us afterwards, but these men were at colossal pains to hide their connexion with the movement; in fact it was a joke among our people that these lengths these people would go to conceal their connexion.

Why was that? Because he was at that time the most interesting man in the world.

● The article about Andre Preu announced yesterday, will appear at a later date.



Top: Police chasing demonstrators during the Cable Street riots between the anti-semitic Mosley fascists and their opponents. Above right: Lord Rothermere, donor of secret funds, with Hitler in 1937. Above right: Nuffield, another covert source of funds.

moreover... Miles Kington

## The arts &amp; shock horror

Arts Round-Up: Tomorrow's Cultural Headlines Now!

★ ★ ★

An enormous furor is building over a portrait of the Queen - commissioned by the Post Office.

The offending picture of Her Majesty appears on every stamp sold by the Post Office - over 100,000 counters up and down the country. It shows her as a young girl with a dress almost off the shoulder, wearing a crown at a rather jaunty angle.

"It's an absolute travesty," says art expert Quentin Portillo. "We all know that the Queen is in late middle age, with the dignified wrinkles and laugh-lines that that entails. Yet here she is, portrayed by some satirical upstart at the Post Office as a sort of Sloane Ranger off to the Hunt Ball for a spot of I-don't-know-what. I am absolutely horrified. And they've also missed the name of the country of the stamp, now that I look. Whatever next?"

The Palace has weathered the storm by claiming that they have not seen the offending stamp.

"Actually, we frank our outgoing mail here," said a spokesnob, "and incoming mail is taken out of its envelope before we ever see it. So I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about. But rest assured, if we had something to say on the subject, we wouldn't say it."

★ ★ ★

Jean 'ondel, the new smash musical at the Old National, is soon to move to the West End. That's the news from impresario Zinka Rodent, who is merrily minding the transfer of Jean 'ondel, the smash hit about the girl from America who toured Europe to sing for Richard Gere-de-Lyon.

★ ★ ★

Themed wing of CND has objected strenuously to the screening of *Heseline*, a horror movie which shows what would happen if Britain were taken over by a blond superman with staring eyes, according to *Heseline*, nobody's mind would be left unscathed by the perience and most of the population would be left zombies.

"*Heseline* is just a fictional character," says an IBA spokesbore. "He couldn't appear in real life. So nuts to you, ND."

★ ★ ★

Mr Seberg, the smash hit musical on in the West End, is soon to move to the Peter Hall Theatre, says impresario Zinka Rodent. The show tells the story of the 10,000 people who wrote every year to the actress in Paris but never got an answer. The music is by Marvo Hamburger, who wrote Scott Joplin's *The Entertainer*.

★ ★ ★

Is *I Liked Chinese Music* a fake? That's the question bothering a lot of people who have read the biography of Harold Holt, well-known classical impresario. The book claims that Holt has been in the pay of the Chinese all along, to infiltrate Chinese music into the Wigmore Hall. But no Chinese music has ever been played there, say the detractors. "True," says author Anthony Grey. "But you've got to remember that Harold Holt was a damned bad Chinese agent."

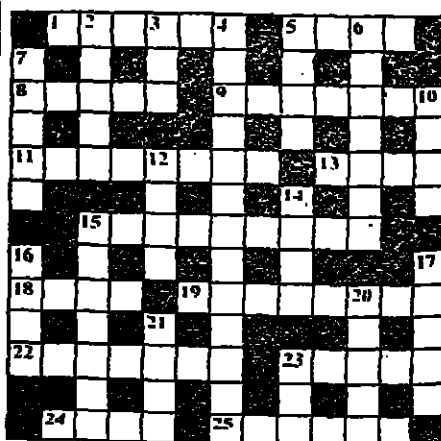
★ ★ ★

Bob Fosse's *Transferrin*, the red-hot musical about a chorus line that could not make it on Broadway, is believed to be going on an out-of-town tour prior to its disappearance. "If you say that in print," says impresario Zinka Rodent, "I'll sue *The Times* for every penny it's got."

★ ★ ★

That's all for now, folks. More news about the arts later if there ever is any news about the arts.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 222)



- ACROSS  
1 Advisor (6)  
5 Jacks (4)  
8 Jeering remark (5)  
9 Chuck (7)  
11 Elation (8)  
13 At summit (4)  
15 Tibetan leader (5,4)  
18 Conceal (4)  
19 Obvious (8)  
22 Concretions (7)  
23 Passing smell (5)  
24 Gloomy (4)  
25 Oath supervisor (6)
- DOWN  
2 Furnish (5)  
3 Toddler (3)  
4 Remedy (1,3)  
5 Sand mound (4)  
6 Priest's cap (7)  
7 Soak (5)  
10 Long stride (4)  
12 Look lewdly (4)  
14 Pervert (4)  
15 Swindler (7)  
16 Stylish (4)  
17 Muscular (5)  
20 Tobacco pipe (5)  
21 Later (4)  
23 Thai temple (3)

SOLUTION TO No 221

- ACROSS: 1 Camaraderie 9 Address 10 Spate  
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20 Core 21 Bolero 22 Sump 23 Shah 25 Sew  
28 Opera 29 Hardest 30 Breadwinner  
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24 Helix 25 Saga 26 Whew 27 Gria



## AN OCCASIONAL COMMENTARY ON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Yes, Henry, I know I said I was going to a matinee. I changed my mind, went to Fortnum's instead and stocked up for Christmas. Now that's what I call entertainment. Just look at all these fabulous things.

I've got a York Ham cooked on the bone, a Terrine of Foie Gras aux Truffes du Perigord, a whole baby Siltan, some Smoked Salmon, a small Truckle Cheddar, and as a special treat some Beluga Caviar.

No, Henry, it's not a lot really. We must have enough for the unexpected guest - and we'll have plenty of those if people hear we bought all our Christmas goodies at Fortnum's.

Don't drop that, Henry - it's a Whisky Decanter. Of course it's heavy - it's full of 12 year old malt whisky and you know how fond you are of that. Oh, bother, I've told you what I'm giving you for Christmas.

If you haven't done your Christmas shopping yet, Fortnum's is open until 6pm on Weekdays and 5.30pm on Saturdays.

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# THE ARTS

BBC1 tonight screens a dramatization of Rex Warner's novel *The Aerodrome*. Robin Chapman, who wrote the script, here reflects upon the problems of turning book into play

## Why the dramatist must always aim to be explicit

Peter Firth in *The Aerodrome*



dramatizer those people and landscapes will be on view; all novels are historical, all plays modern. The novel can choose to be explicit or implicit. Certain things can only be left unsaid or merely hinted at, so that the reader's imagination is free to work on deliberately imprecise and therefore evocative information. A dramatist cannot do this - before all else an audience must know what is happening on a realistic level. Drama can never be impressionistic for long. Juxtaposed images can tease us towards an unexpected action for a minute or so, but then the expected must occur even if it is only a letter being posted through a door to join others already lying on the mat. A perfect example of the evocative power of implication in the novel that would provide problems for the dramatist is Heathcliff's 'nightwalk' and fervid death at the end of *Wuthering Heights*. Here the question is: Has Heathcliff 'sinned' Cathy again? Put like that seems comic and if the question is

answered in the affirmative and then dramatized, it could easily become even more so on screen. Because it does not mean the dramatist can ignore it. As readers we already know that Heathcliff has opened Cathy's coffin once before and made certain panel arrangements with the sliding, so that when he comes to be buried there on the other side of Cathy from her husband Linton he will have easier access to his dead love. How a corpse moves across to embrace another is not a question Emily Brontë need answer, of course, nor whether on his 'nightwalk' Heathcliff checked the coffin arrangements again and embraced the beloved corpse once more. But a dramatist needs to know or at least decide from the evidence available. Did he, didn't he? And if you decide Heathcliff did, do you dramatize his nightwalk? Or if you decide he did not dig Cathy up again, do you pretend the implication is not there in the original when it deliberately and powerfully yet imprecisely is?

Of course Emily Brontë is not in the business of the dramatist - she is in the way of returning her characters to the moorland folklore as they sprang, they are to be as they have been in life. *Wuthering Heights* will never be easy to dramatize and probably never should be. What does a dramatist actually do with a more manageable masterpiece? I agree it is just that I admire it, so I like it, preferably admire it, so I like it, so I like it. Then I read it again with as open a mind as possible - trying this second time to receive the book simply as it is, suppressing any likes or dislikes, forcing myself to have no opinion just as I do when at work on a novel or play of my own: the raw material is just that - raw. At this early stage, opinion can prejudice invention. After this the first consideration is whether the book's spirit is reflected in a single screenplay or in several episodes. The impact (let

alone the dramatic construction) of a 90-minute screenplay is quite different from that of a four-part serialisation. The former is like a specially exhibited major painting, the latter a gallery hung with related tapestries. There is more theatrical heat and energy in a single screenplay than in a serial and some novels are better suited to one than the other. For example, the Kafkaesque surrealism of *The Aerodrome* is more effectively realized in a single concentrated burst. To serialize it would be to ask an audience to accept the family relationships in the story at a more realistic level than Warner's clean comedy intends. narrative consideration is the warning of the original (I think it is a first narrative, I decide whether it is the book's intrinsic nature to be a narrative. Suppose it had not been written from that one person's point of view, would the events described be their

## Television Killing society

BBC's Panorama set out last night to expose the inadequacies of the law relating to deaths on the roads, the ambivalent attitude of courts and police to this kind of "social killing", and the "total collusion" between courts and insurance companies to keep compensation low and hard to get. The reporter Margaret Jay and the producer Tom Bower made an alarming, convincing job of it. They examined several cases, talking to those who had killed, relatives of those who had been killed, police and prosecutors. Miss Kay's incisive questioning left several hanging on the ropes. The worst case, which qualified because of the numbers involved, was that of Ron Bolton who, he said, had fallen asleep at the wheel. His 32-ton lorry ploughed into a stationary mini-bus on the M6 and wiped out a family of seven Asians. He was fined £350 for careless driving and £325 for altering his tachograph, and disqualified from driving for a year. He altered the tachograph to conceal a stop in Birmingham to see his girlfriend. Police, admitted Supt Waring, of the Greater Manchester force, who was in charge of the investigation, had not interviewed the girl to examine whether Mr Bolton's sleepiness was culpable. She had not been regarded as a material witness. Supt Waring spoke of the difficulty of producing evidence which would have been required for a more serious charge. It was necessary, he said, to prove that a driver took a risk knowing what the end-product of it would be. Arnold Singer, chairman of the Wigan bench, who heard the case, conceded that he had been "a little surprised that the lesser charge was brought". Mr Bolton - who, it was said, had no intention of paying the fine, though he volunteered that he had received pound notes as well as congratulations from members of the National Front - said it was "just the kind of thing that happens". He subsequently described himself as a "bastard" who did not "give a damn for anybody". *Panorama* also examined the American situation where, thanks to pressure from lobbies such as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), legislation making social killing less free from appropriate consequences. This was a first-class programme with *Panorama*, as it were, out of church for once.

Recently I read a preview of the final episode of Troy Kennedy Martin's adaptation of Angus Wilson's *The Old Men at the Zoo*, in which the adapter was rebuffed for making what had been implicit in the novel explicit on screen. There are of course plenty of misconceptions about the job of adapting novels for television. Perfectly intelligent well-read persons can and do assume that you just "do the dialogue". They are often surprised when you say you are equally concerned with what is seen as what is heard. "Oh, I thought the director did the visuals," they reply. At this point you take a deep breath - well, I do - and either change the subject, or else tough it out with a lecture on the mode of the narrative voice: first person versus third tends to switch pretty well everybody off, which is not to say I shall not come back to it. Perhaps some prevalent misunderstandings come from the term "adaptation" itself. "Dramatization" is also used but not so widely, though it does describe the job more precisely. Adaptation suggests something akin to editorial abridgement (condensed classics) rather than the more muscular business of expressing a novel in dramatic terms. Some novels, of course, lend themselves more readily to the process - clearly *Oliver Twist* would be easier to dramatize than *The Waves*. And that brings me back to Kennedy Martin's previewer who appeared momentarily unaware that the job of the dramatist is always to be explicit. There are no exceptions to this rule. Now does the explicitness of drama mean it cannot be subtle or imply infinites of unexpressed emotion (like Chekhov), but the dramatist achieves such ineffabilities only by way of specific actions, however large or small. Theatre is the verb, not the adjective. Joan Littlewood used to say, and here we have the crucial difference between novel and drama - a novel is essentially descriptive, a play essentially active. A novel can be action-packed, but it will still be a chronicle of described people moving in described landscapes. For the

## A message of entranced delight

Variety is always the spice of life in Cork Street, and seldom more than at this time of year, when London's commercial galleries, even the grandest, hope against hope that the Christmas spirit will descend like a benison and people will buy paintings, if not for themselves, at least for one another. There is of course, as they say, no obligation to purchase, so whether your taste in Christmas presents runs to enormous canvases by Julian Schnabel at over £30,000 apiece or to tiny watercolours around the £35-50 mark, or whether you just like to look, a little rambles along Cork Street should be well worth your while - especially since it boasts at the moment two completely new galleries for your delectation. You might start with Browse and Darby, who have a wholly beguiling show of paintings by James Reeve (until December 21), including exquisitely detailed oils of a Somerset farmyard, watercolours of eastern scenes and some beautifully finished studies of seashells on a beach. Whatever the medium, the message is one of entranced delight in the world about us. Next door, at the Redfern, is an in general lightweight but highly enjoyable show of Prints and Literature (until December 31), which ranges confidently from Barnett Freedman's lithographs for *Jane Eyre* to Picasso's sketches for Ovid. Some of the pieces are very familiar, and some very rare, but all-in-all they make a cheery assemblage. Cross the road to the Piccadilly Gallery, and you will find an equally varied Christmas Exhibition with some lovely Symbolist and Art Nouveau drawings, a couple by the improbably named Uriel Birbaum of

particular interest, and a wonderfully characteristic Bathus drawing of a girl preparing for a bath. At this point you might as well go back to the Robert Fraser and Maynard Galtier, which between them an extensive show of Dali Drawings by the Edward James Collection (until December 21). James was one of Dali's prime patrons, the Thirties, and notoriously had the pick of his production, so it is not surprising that he was not quite like Dali, and mainly cannot take him seriously, the evidences are certainly impressive. He certainly had a cunning way with a pencil, and some of his most modish fantasies women dressed as drawers, everyone pipped with multiple crumpled - find better forms here in his paintings. And sometimes, like the visionary *Le lit imaginaire de Lautréamont dix-neuf ans*, do haunt one, the back of the Mayor of Calais are recent collages by Roland Penrose, funny and nervous by turns. Strongly tied to representation, of his weird kind, is Ken Kiff, who is showing in Cork Street at Nicola Jacobs Gallery (until December 23). What he represents is a dream - or sometimes a nightmare - world of his devising, in which dwarfs monsters of all kinds prattle through sometimes the moments of beatitude and things out. A number of brilliantly coloured new pieces, as well as the violent charcoal drawings, seem to reflect on the role of woman in this world. Kiff may be an



Intermittently impressive: detail from Dali's *Naissance de l'amebement paranoïaque*

anthology of Twentieth-Century British Artists which holds out a decided promise for the future. The stated intention of the gallery is to find new talents but also to seek out admirable artists of senior generations who have somehow slipped from public consciousness, whether because of fashioning, the demands of teaching or personal problems of some kind. Any or all of these reasons might go to explain why we are not so aware as we might be of Kenneth Rowntree, represented by some crisp and elegant landscapes, or George Hooper, who appears on this evidence to have just moved into a period of dazzling Fauve colour, or Alfred Whiteley, whose large painting *The Coral Necklace* somewhere between Spencer and Balbus (if you can imagine it), is perhaps the most striking single thing in the show. Among the newcomers Alan Lambirth, last year's Royal Academy Gold Medalist, seems like someone to look out for. As for the gallery itself, one can only wish it well, these hard times, and suggest you continue to watch this space.

John Russell Taylor

## Imagination Hammersmith Odeon

The first surprise was the discovery that, although the members of Imagination may have black skins, they are not what is crudely known in the trade as a "black act": their audience was solidly pink and white, with an average age of about 17 and a preponderance of shrill girls whose attention, it became apparent, was fixed as firmly on the cut of Lee John's satin shorts as on the easy sensuality of the songs - such as "Body Talk", "Just an Illusion" and "In the Heat of the Night" - that have kept the trio in the pop charts of Britain and Europe for the past couple of years. To these ears, Imagination's records are as convincing as any soul music on this side of the Atlantic as "Made in Britain" tag peeps out above the collar. Indeed, the clever layering of

## Pop music

electronic keyboards devised by their producers, Tony Swaine and Steve Jolley, is more suggestive of the sophisticated discotheques of Continental Europe; perhaps that explains why they are Caroline of Monaco's favourite group and why they do not find similar acceptance among young British Blacks. In any event, their show turned out to be rather impressive. A reputation for campiness and silly costumes proved only partly justified: the preening was consistently pricked by the self-aware humour, and the threads could not disguise either their highly developed musicianship (their drummer must surely be the first to have perfected a minuet of the hard crash and machine-gun rattle of the fashionable percussion synthesizers) or their ability to make a four-bar bass pattern, a keyboard texture and a fragment of lyric evoke a mood. The lush slow-motion funk of

"Body Talk" and "Music and Lights" were what most of us turned up to hear: built on keyboard bass, they did not suggest a broader range as "In and Out of Love", which fused the bristling attack of Chic with the Police's reggae, but the never-satisfied (from their current LP, *Schizoid*) indicated that they were now running out of commercial hooks. More positively, one was left with impressions of the versatility of Ashley Ingram, who performed well on electric piano, guitar and bass, of the surprising vocal flexibility of Lee John, and of the scarcely credible physical dexterity of the four young body-popping dancers whose routines were memorably showcased during one section of a show which worked hard to entertain and generally succeeded.

Richard Williams

Mr Bolton - who, it was said, had no intention of paying the fine, though he volunteered that he had received pound notes as well as congratulations from members of the National Front - said it was "just the kind of thing that happens". He subsequently described himself as a "bastard" who did not "give a damn for anybody". *Panorama* also examined the American situation where, thanks to pressure from lobbies such as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), legislation making social killing less free from appropriate consequences. This was a first-class programme with *Panorama*, as it were, out of church for once.

Dennis Hackett

## Both deaf and blind



How do you explain things to someone who is both deaf and blind? Life will be a constant struggle and most work will be quite impossible. Do you think that you could cope? The RNID's residential services have been expanded to include provision for deaf/blind youngsters and for deaf people who have been mentally ill. We also promote medical research and provide extensive scientific, technical, educational, welfare and information services. Will you help us?

RNID. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Please send what you can afford to RNID, Room D3, 163 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. For details telephone 01-387 9833.

## InterContemporain/Boulez Barbican

Midway through the Olivetti Webern Cycle, Pierre Boulez and his crack ensemble from Paris arrived to prove, to encouraging and enthusiastic audiences that it is perfectly possible to enjoy Webern, and very nearly possible to perform him. Scores so attenuated and finely tuned will always seem a little degraded when turned into the rude stuff of sound, but Boulez knows from the experience of a quarter-century how to make Webern's music spring to rhythmic life, and in his Ensemble InterContemporain he has players who can not only bring individual rarity and intensity to so many tiny phrases but also work together in breathing those phrases into larger patterns. Most spectacular, because most unexpected, was their success with the Concerto for nonet, which normally sounds like a game of three-dimensional chess. On Sunday it was still a game, but one with more

important issues than mere pattern: there was wit, playfulness and even nostalgia and desperation flitting across the music's striding surfaces. By the Quartet with saxophone the same period seemed far more than a mere technical exercise, perhaps because it needed to be done by a conductor, but also because these mountain abstracts in the pre-Aschulus years of phony, was beautiful, one with solo strings to its fragility and sensuality. Those were qualities of Phyllis Bryn-Julson, in both the ensemble and concerts, during the of which she took on all the songs for voice and ensemble. One would have to be both a Bryn-Julson and a Melisande to justly honor, but Miss Bryn-Julson is more the Melisande, has the technique of a tender sigh that most requires. She was lovely pair of little Rilke songs one to his own words. Webern did not publish hers because it speaks openly of his grief at the loss of his mother, the grief

expressed more obliquely in very much of his music. Of the later songs, one ought to feel more the splinters of glass in the penitential Five Canons with clarinet, but Miss Bryn-Julson's soft, intimate, wholly unworldly naturalness in the wildly difficult Op 18 group rightly made them into a sweet hymn to the Virgin. Grief and piety: possibly these are things too personal for festivals, too touching to be experienced again and again as work follows work. But Webern is finding his public.

Paul Griffiths

## Debuts

The Greek pianist Aleka Simeonidou laboured under severely disabling conditions in her recital at St James's Church in Piccadilly. For one thing, the acoustic is hopelessly resonant, blurring every musical detail. Worse, her resident piano sounds as though it has suffered all the torments of the average school hall instrument. It was not in tune, and possessed no perceptible subtlety or richness of colour. The tiny audience did nothing to help the atmosphere either. One might have been forgiven for thinking that one had stumbled across the funeral of a recluse. Under these trying circumstances, Miss Simeonidou played gamely. She was most successful in Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C minor, Op 111, managing in the Arietta to keep theme well to the fore, never complex Beethoven's

**Ambassadors Theatre**  
135 1171 930 877 Preview from Dec 15 Night  
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Mon-Fri 8 p.m. Sat 5.30 & 8.30 p.m. Mat Tue 5 p.m.

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**SPECIAL OCCASIONS**  
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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# GEC brings down less from the mountain

Lord Weinstock and Sir Kenneth Bond, the presiding pillars of GEC, can control many things, but they include neither interest rates, nor the foreign exchange value of sterling, nor (entirely) the forecast of brokers' analysts. It is hard to understand why stock market soothsayers forecast, with almost deadly accuracy GEC's trading results for the six months to September 30 and yet failed to get anywhere near GEC's investment income for the same period.

This is doubly unfortunate: it proves, yet again, how far off beam even the most informed forecasts can turn out and as brokers' forecasts tend now to be the yardstick by which the market judges actual performance, share price movements, after the actual figures have been issued, may not be soundly based.

Not unreasonably, senior managers who have worked their insides out to produce good figures can feel bitter and twisted when mistaken City Cassandrae seem to have more influence in the market than the results themselves.

GEC's pretax profits for the first half-year are down from £291m to £285m. Though the interim dividend is raised from a penny to 1.15p a share, the shares immediately fell 19p, before closing 17p lower at 176p - a mere 2p above their year's low.

Profits from trading went up by £17m, a fair performance marked only by lower levels of deliveries of power-generation equipment (large steam and gas turbines) and of telecommunications equipment.

Deliveries of System X equipment to British Telecom should soon begin to make the running and, although the results will not be seen in the current year, GEC has picked up £50m worth of orders for power-generation equipment in the last few weeks.

The half-year figures are down simply because income earned on GEC's fabulous "cash mountain" is £23m lower than at September 30 last year. The mountain then yielded a return of 18 per cent.

This year so far, not only have interest rates fallen but the profit of converting dollar balances into sterling has shrunk. The return has been halved. By the end of GEC's 1982-83 financial year, the credit for currency conversion had grown to £32m.

The 1984 year-end figure will be nothing like that, but it should be better than the half-year figure might suggest.

Looking at the game at half-time, GEC is one-nil down and probably heading for a draw. As usual it is tight-lipped about what, if anything, it might do with all that cash (£1,477m at the last count), other than to continue to make the best return in the world's money and bond markets.

## Eagle Star penny bazaar

The auction of Eagle Star is in danger of becoming a farce - a fate that no company of any status deserves. A mixture of pride and prejudice is threatening to take over.

The West German company Allianz Versicherungs, which has 30 per cent of Eagle Star and wanted to own 40 per cent, ought to recognize that it is not going to prevail over the rival bidder, BAT Industries.

By sensibly withdrawing it would earn points, a huge profit on its Eagle Star shares and stand a fair chance if it came back with an offer for another British company. Its merchant banking advisers, Morgan Grenfell, would no doubt be pleased to act as an intermediary if Allianz revived its interest in Cornhill, which now resides in the BTR camp.

That, however, is not a line that yet commands itself to the proud and determined Allianz chairman, Dr Wolfgang Schieren. The Allianz management board meets in Munich today to approve lifting its bid to 661p a share - just 1p more than the BAT offer. It will be doing this in order to comply with a Takeover Panel ruling yesterday that Allianz must meet a promise to top BAT's terms.

It is a technical move designed to put off the final decision making for as long as possible and does nothing for the German reputation for decisiveness. Both BAT and Allianz must make their final offer by

December 30 under City takeover rules. Both sides can play the same game, each jostling for position by raising their bids by 1p. That would be ludicrous.

BAT's merchant bank advisers, Lazard Brothers, intends to protest about Allianz's expected 661p a share bid in the strongest possible terms. It argues that the new bid will breach general principle No 5 of the Takeover Code, which says that any bidder must do its utmost to avoid creating a false market in the target company's shares.

There is growing pressure within the Allianz management board of the company to take its profit, with the "worker" members of the supervisory board (half its membership) wanting to see the money reinvested in Germany.

Moreover, Dr Schieren is said to be about to lose one of his most avid supporters - his finance manager, Dr Marcus Bierich. Dr Bierich has been a key, and constructive, figure in the sometimes bitter discussions between Allianz and Eagle over the past two years but he may be off to succeed Professor Hans Merkle, the grand old man of German industry, as head of the giant Bosch motor component group.

The Takeover Panel yesterday told Morgan Grenfell that it expected a full offer document by the end of the week.

Sensing that the action may end before the penny farce begins Eagle's share price yesterday dropped 15p to 697p.

# Pound falls to record low as dollar's surge continues

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent, and Bailey Morris, Washington

Sterling fell further against the dollar yesterday as the United States currency forged ahead again in the foreign exchange markets.

The pound remained fairly firm against other currencies, which also suffered from the apparently insatiable demand for dollars. At one point, sterling hit \$1.4285 before recovering slightly, but finished the day at \$1.4310, a record closing low and down 45 points from Friday.

Its trade-weighted value was only 0.1 lower on the day at 82.5 as it closed a shade firmer against the French franc but slightly easier against the German mark and the yen.

Foreign exchange markets reacted early in the day to the bombing in Kuwait by pushing the dollar ahead. The continuing worries about the United States budget deficit, the rapid

recovery in the economy and the impact these could have on American interest rates also lent support to the dollar, which broke new ground against both the mark and French franc.

Intervention by the German central bank as the dollar tested DM 2.7550 helped to stem its surge during the morning, but it still closed in London over ½ pence higher at DM 2.7540.

One dealer said yesterday: "It's difficult to see anything happening between now and the end of December which will weaken the dollar."

Another added: "Whatever way you turn it's very difficult to sell the dollar."

Although central bankers appear concerned about the continuing strength of the dollar, there is no sign that concerted intervention on the foreign exchanges is planned to try to prevent it rising.

Meanwhile, a Republican from Kansas openly defied the Reagan Administration yesterday by holding a series of Congressional hearings designed to focus national attention on the soaring budget deficits he fears will destroy the US recovery.

The three days of special hearings before Mr Robert Dole's Finance Committee opened as analysts predicted the dollar would continue to surge, largely because of the huge budget deficits which are fueling high interest rates.

White House officials had urged Mr Dole to put off the hearings until next year when the Administration will unveil its 1985 budget, which reportedly projects a deficit even higher than has been expected.

Privately, some of Mr Reagan's closest advisors have admitted that they now regard

the rising deficit of \$200 billion and more as Mr Reagan's economic Achilles' heel. The White House strategy has been to blame the deficits on free-spending Democrats in Congress.

But the strategy has begun to backfire as the national debate over the deficit grows more intense and powerful Republicans like Mr Dole insist on forcing the Administration to share the blame.

Mr Dole had urged the President to put aside party differences and approve a programme of modest tax increases and additional spending cuts before Congress recessed on 18 November for the year.

But Mr Reagan remained firm in his opposition to tax increases and restated his belief that the deficit problem will be cured by a stronger-than-expected recovery.

## US fears hit index

The equity market's record-breaking run showed signs of running out of steam yesterday as the long three-week Christmas account got under way.

Opening on a firm note the FT Index continued to scale new heights, rising 3.4, at one stage, before closing 3.4 down at 753.7.

Fears of higher US interest rates and a disappointing start to trading on Wall Street affected sentiment with the latest bumper set of retail sales making little impression.

Dealers fear that now the festivities are under way turnover will continue to decline and prices will now be left to drift.

Market report, page 16

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 753.7 down 3.4  
FT 100: 82.51 down 0.26  
FT All Share: 463.85 down 1.48

Bargains: 21.030  
Basket: 82.51 down 0.26

New York: Dow Jones  
Average: (latest) 1258.33 down 1.73

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones  
Index 9,442.38 down 6.52

Hongkong: Hang Seng  
Index 856.74 down 1.65

Amsterdam: 156.0 down 0.1  
Sydney: AO Index 743.8 up 8.0

Frankfurt: Commerzbank  
Index 1016.3 up 2.0

Brussels: General Index  
131.63 up 0.71

Paris: CAC Index 151.5 up 0.9

Zurich: SKA General 306.80 up 0.30

## CURRENCIES

Sterling  
\$1.4310 down 45pts  
Index 82.5 down 0.1

DM 3.9425 up 0.0050  
FF 12.0050 up 0.0125

Yen 338.75 down 0.75  
Dollar  
Index 130.4 up 0.2

DM 2.7540 up 0.0053  
New York Latest  
Sterling \$1.4285

Dollar DM 2.7525  
ECU 0.673129  
SDR 0.725922

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rate 9  
Finance houses base rate 9½

Discount market loans week  
fixed 9  
3 month interbank 9½-9¾

Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 10¼-10½  
3 month DM 6¼-6½

3 month FR 12¼-12½  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 11.00

Export Finance Scheme IV  
Average reference rate for  
interest period November 2 to  
December 8 1983 inclusive:  
9.350 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$390.90 pm \$391.25  
close \$391.25-392 (\$273.50-274)

New York (close): \$391.25  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$403.50-405 (\$282.25-283.25)

Sovereigns (new):  
\$91.50-92.50 (\$64-64.75)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Grim forecast on UK oil income

By Jonathan Davis  
Financial Correspondent

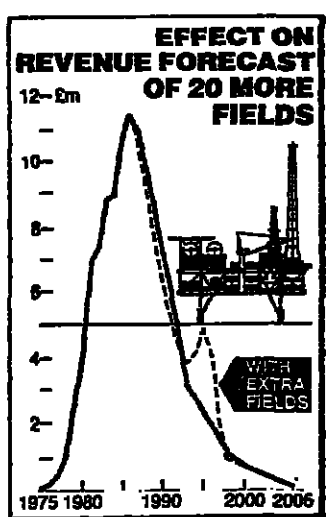
A savage decline in the Government's North Sea oil revenues in the 1990s looks inevitable, according to a critical report on oil taxation policy published yesterday by the independent Institute of Fiscal Studies.

If oil prices rise in line with inflation for the rest of this century, the Government's income from all commercial fields in the North Sea will decline from a peak of £11,000m in 1987 to less than £1,000m in the year 2000, the institute calculates.

The committee, with the £8,000m to £9,000m that the Government will receive this financial year, and it reflects the sharp fall in output from the prolific early discoveries in the North Sea which had always been expected from 1990 onwards.

The institute adds that even big rises in oil prices or a sudden spate of new field developments is unlikely to have much effect on the steady revenue decline.

The study estimates that oil prices would have to rise in real



terms by 6 per cent a year - or by 51 per cent over the next seven years - if revenues were to be maintained above £10,000m a year until 1990.

To keep revenues at this level until 1994 would require prices to increase annually at more than 9 per cent above the rate of inflation. So they would have to double in real terms over the next 11 years.

Such increases would give a

powerful boost to the development of new fields but they are extremely unlikely and would, in any case, cause such damage to the economy that they would outweigh the Government's need for revenues, according to authors, Mr Mike Devereux and Mr Nick Morris, research officers at the institute.

Because future fields will be much smaller and more economically marginal than the original discoveries, even the development of 20 new fields would have only a marginal impact on Government revenues this century.

The institute supports this gloomy prognosis with some criticisms of the way in which oil taxation has developed in this country. It says that the system has hit small marginal fields much harder than the more profitable developments.

The report proposes that the present system should be replaced by a simple system based on profitability and cash flow, rather than revenues.

North Sea Oil Taxation, by M. P. Devereux and C. N. Morris, Institute of Fiscal Studies, Woodhead Faulkner (Publishers) Ltd, Cambridge. Price £6.

## RMC puts £20m into expansion

By Jeremy Warner

RMC Group, Britain's biggest ready-mixed concrete concern, is spending about £20m on acquisitions in France, the US and Britain.

The takeovers will provide a source of raw materials for the group's businesses in Britain and France and extend its American interests.

The stock market approved - and marked the shares up 8p to 397p yesterday despite the placing of 3.94 million shares to help pay for the purchases.

RMC is paying DM50m (£12.85m) to Rheinisch-Westfälische Kalkwerke of West Germany for a 65 per cent interest in its aggregates offshoot in France.

RMC already has 49 per cent of the West German parent which has been rationalizing its interest through sale and closure to concentrate on its original limestone extraction business.

The French company lost money last year and most of this year. But it is expected to make a net profit next year.

RMC is also paying \$9.7m (£6.7m) for a 75 per cent interest in Metromont Materials Corporation in South Carolina.

Metromont, which is profitable, operates 12 ready-mixed concrete plants, seven concrete block plants and one concrete pipe plant.

Meanwhile, in Britain the group is paying £1.84m for farm land adjacent to its existing quarry at Hatfield in Hertfordshire.

Planning permission has been granted to develop the land for its sand and gravel deposits. RMC appears to have secured its new reserves at Hatfield cheaply compared with the price that Tarmac has been paying.

## Lloyds buys part of rescued bank

By Our Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank is expanding in Germany by buying part of Schroeder, Munchmeyer, Henstge and Co. (SMH), the private German bank which was rescued last month, for an undisclosed sum.

Lloyds is buying about DM1.4 billion (£355m) of assets under the deal, comprising parts of SMH's commercial banking business and all its investment banking activities.

Excluded from the deal are any of SMH's loans to IBH, the huge building machinery group or Wibu, a machinery company in which IBH has a stake.

It was these loans, estimated at about DM900m, which precipitated the rescue of SMH by a group of West German banks at the beginning of last month.

The West German banks are believed to have extended about

## Amex faces profit fall of \$50m

By Philip Robinson

Net profits of American Express will fall by about \$50m (£35m) to \$531m this year, making it the first profits drop for a decade. It follows a \$230m injection of cash into its property liability insurance arm, Fireman's Fund.

A shake-up of top management at the Fireman's Fund was also announced last night.

American Express is one of the world's largest travel and financial services groups. It takes in international banking services, insurance, investment advice and the famous charge card used by 15 million holders.

Increased and higher claims mean that its Fireman's Fund subsidiary will make a loss in the final quarter of the year, although it will be profitable for the year as a whole.

In New York, American Express share price hit a low for the year of \$28½ per share. The price has come down this year from almost \$30 a share.

The problems have been caused by additional reserves being needed for meeting claims on workers' compensation and property liability.

Last October American Express reported a less than 11 per cent increase in third-quarter earnings as a result of a 25 per cent drop in the earnings of its insurance subsidiary.

Earlier this month it announced 10 per cent job cuts among 13,000 workers at Fireman's Fund. The group said 300 jobs in the property liability operations were being cut immediately and a further 1,200 jobs would go next year. In the third-quarter Fireman's Fund earnings fell to \$46m.

As a result, net income for American Express is expected to fall sharply from \$581m.

Last month, American Express was poised to make one of the world's largest corporate takeovers, offering its stock in a \$1 billion deal for the Allegheny Corporation. It was called off just a month after the first announcement.

In London, Amex has just paid £28m for Peninsular House in Monument Street.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Investment fund for Lancashire

Mr David Trippier, the minister for small businesses, has given his backing to a new community-based investment fund which will invest £500,000 in local firms in North-East Lancashire.

The Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund, which is part of the Business Expansion Scheme, will be run by local businessmen who draw no salary for their work. Investors will pay no management charges although there will be a half-yearly administrative charge.

Charterhouse Group and Electra Risk Capital have linked up with a publicly-quoted company, Pineapple Dance Studios, for its first venture under the Business Expansion Scheme. Pineapple has formed a subsidiary, Pineapple Kensington, in which Charterhouse will take a 40 per cent stake and Electra a 35 per cent stake. Charterhouse has paid £251,000 for its stake and Electra £220,000. The remaining 25 per cent will be held by Pineapple.

The Department of Trade has presented petitions for the compulsory winding up of Cavalier Insurance and Universal Guarantee Insurance Agency, after discovering that the two companies were not authorized to offer extended guarantees to policyholders.

Xerox Corp. has agreed to acquire the privately-held investment banking firm Van Kampen Merritt for \$150m (£105m) in cash, term and convertible notes, plus a contingent payment of up to \$68m based on earnings for the next three years.

Mr John Elliott, an Australian entrepreneur, yesterday raised a toast in Foster's lager after his company gained control of the brewers of Australia's most famous beer in the country's largest takeover deal. Mr Elliott, managing director of Elders IXL, said his company now held more than 50 per cent of Carlton and United Breweries after spending more than \$480m.

## Property groups back in £300m merger talks

By Jonathan Clare

The £300m merger of Slough Estates, Allnatt London Properties and Guildhall Property is back on after a surprise announcement yesterday that the three companies were talking again. An official announcement of the terms of the deal is expected today.

Talks between the three property companies were called off just over two weeks ago. The two main directors of Allnatt and Guildhall, Mr Leslie Smith and Mr Ronald Diggins, are said to be anxious to stand down. Mr Diggins is also on the Slough board.

A successful merger would create a property company with a portfolio worth about £700m and a market value of almost £300m. Slough's portfolio alone is worth about £500m.

Mr Godfrey Messervy, chairman of Lucas Industries, told yesterday's annual meeting that the company must continue to shed labour this year if it is to remain competitive. In 1982 the group reduced its British workforce by nearly 4,000 to 45,500.

which its shares trade. But any issue of Slough shares to acquire the earnings per share through this is likely to be insubstantial on the terms Slough wants.

The belief among City circles that the merger will be on Slough's terms was reflected in the share price which ended the day down only 3p at 119p.

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## Minister seeks further \$100m towards \$6.5 billion new money target

## Brazil appeals for Middle East loan

By John Lawless

Brazil's Planning Minister, Senhor Antonio Delfim Netto, is on a tour of the Middle East, urging bankers to join the \$6.5 billion (£4.3m) new money loan to his country.

He left Bahrain yesterday after a visit to the United Arab Emirates, and was thought to be heading for Jeddah. After Saudi Arabia, where he is due to meet senior ministers and central bank officials, he is likely to visit Kuwait.

The Middle East is the only region, outside Latin America, that is still showing substantial resistance to new lending.

A New York banker who is coordinating the loan arrangements said yesterday: "We are looking for another \$100m from there, having so far managed to

gent upon the full \$6.5 billion being in place, from 100 per cent of the banks."

The new money total yesterday stood at \$6.22 billion, from 420 banks. Although coordinate banks were still claiming that they have yet to hear from about 200 small banks, others began to question whether this figure might be a scare tactic.

One London banker said: "There are many subsidiaries included in that figure, perhaps five belonging to one bank. That has inflated the total still outstanding."

He added: "The major non-US banks are adamant that they will not raise bridging finance by the end of the year if the full amount is not there."

Brazil, under those circumstances, would only be able to keep the existing commitments

in place - and allow the rescue deal to continue into next year - if it guaranteed to make what arrears payment is can in "an even-handed" way. In other words, American banks must not be favoured with payments.

If Brazil could not do that, either old loans would temporarily have to be put on a non-performing basis, or the US banks would have to raise bridging finance on their own.

"The big banks feel very strongly about this," he said, pointing out that several of those still to commit themselves are regional US banks.

There can be no under-estimating, therefore, how important Senator Delfim Netto's Middle East tour has become. Apart from the two large banks, Baring International and the Arab Bank International, there are still plenty of smaller banks there holding back.

# Whitecroft

We acquired the London-based builders merchants group, M. Wispart Ltd in October 1983. This acquisition will be of considerable benefit to the building supplies division, providing better access to the more buoyant markets in the south-east of the country, and is expected to make profits of at least £700,000 per annum.

The lighting companies made further progress, with a significant profit contribution from Simplex Lighting Ltd which was acquired a year ago.

In property development, we expect to benefit shortly from the first major transactions in our commercial development programme.

The Whitecroft group is more firmly based to generate growth than for many years and this will be reflected in the outcome for the year as a whole.

Interim results	Half year ended 30 September 1983	Half year ended 30 September 1982	Year ended 31 March 1983
	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	43,700+ 9%	40,018	84,304
Profit before taxation	2,744+13%	2,425	5,304
Earnings per share	10.3p+25%	8.2p	18.5p
Dividends per share	2.0p+21%	1.65p	5.4p



**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

new high of 154½p. But the company said it never comments on market rumours. Hanson Trust has been tipped as a likely suitor.

There was speculative support for the big banks. Bank of Scotland rose 13p to 695p, after 700p, while among the merchant banks Hill Samuel was up to a new high of 343p on hopes of a bid from the US.

Shares of Comet Group were in fine form yesterday recovering most of an early 5p fall in ex-div form to close a net 2p lower at 306p.

Over on the Over-the-Counter market licensed dealers

This is the first European security to be traded on the

market and follows offer by tender at a minimum price of 250p. This figure was exceeded when 800,000 shares, about 30 per cent of the 27 million shares in issue were placed by Granville with United Kingdom institutions at

[illegible]

29%		374	4	117
31%		770	4	117
31%		5	16	26
31%		167	13	31
31%		112	11	14
31%		380	50	51
31%		448	50	51
31%		192	13	13
31%		35	10	10
31%		170	14	14
31%		203	14	14
31%		-12		
31%		13	2	2
31%		28	10	10
31%		51	5	5
31%		13	10	21
31%		301	11	11
31%		316	10	10
31%		58	7	7
31%		715	77	77
31%		23	6	6
31%		31	4	4
31%		285	10	10
31%		36	5	5
31%		265	6	6
31%		39	6	6
31%		184	6	6
31%		712	6	6
31%		105	10	10
31%		95	12	12
31%		50	11	11
31%		11	8	8

559	+3	22	8
560	+3	22	8
561	+3	22	8
562	+3	12	05
563	+3	26	83
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137		29	21	23	88
229		39	35	35	11
101		29	35	35	44
35		19	55	35	23
278		8	55	35	35
116		8	55	35	17
325		12	55	35	19
325		12	55	35	46
835		12	55	35	67
39		13	55	35	67
T		14	55	35	67
70		14	55	35	67
86		14	55	35	67
154		14	55	35	67
142		14	55	35	67
156		14	55	35	67
86		14	55	35	67
790		14	55	35	67
47		14	55	35	67
43		14	55	35	67
227		14	55	35	67
227		14	55	35	67
168		14	55	35	67
251		14	55	35	67
97		14	55	35	67
130		14	55	35	67
57		14	55	35	67
215		14	55	35	67
136		14	55	35	67
154		14	55	35	67

[illegible]

423	r	-2	5.8	1.9	4.4
170					
220					
87	*10		2.0	2.3	2.8
119			2.0	2.3	2.8
275			7.1	3.2	3.2
113			0.6	7.3	10.3
690					
168	-5		2.9	1.5	1.9
206			1.7	1.4	2.1
29			0.7	2.5	1.7
179	-4		2.3	1.9	2.3
17			2.3	1.9	2.3
80	-6		2.6	3.3	3.3

Forecast dividend, c. Current  
 1 passed. Price at suspension.  
 include a special payment. 1 Will  
 include. Forecast earnings, a  
 rights. 2a scrip or share suit-  
 desired for late dealings. No

مكتبة من الأصل



INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

# Dobson Park contains drop in profits to £1m

What props up the share price of Dobson Park Industries, the coal mining engineers, is a 10.8 yield on a price of 70p and a maintained dividend of 5.21p, despite three years of falling profits.

That is of little consolation to a company that has seen its pretax profit margins more than halved in five years and its fully taxed earnings per share cut by just as much.

Nevertheless, Dobson has done well to contain the drop down from £9m to £8m pretax for the year ended October on a turnover reduced from £12.6m to £10.9m.

Gearing has sensibly been held down. Acquisitions in the current year should be valued at half the spent in the last fiscal year, £12m, but even then the gearing level should still be no higher than 15 per cent by the year-end, according to Mr Graham Edwards, the finance director.

Incorporating the £1.44m profits of FSW, acquired last May, helped profits at a crucial time and further acquisitions should do the same this year.

But the real problems do not lie in Britain, where any turn of events will have a dramatic effect on profitability, but abroad.

In the seven main overseas areas in which Dobson Park operates, it showed losses in six, and the one which did contribute, India, made only £205,000.

Europe and North America recorded the sharpest downturn with combined losses increasing to almost £2m from £660,000. Dobson hopes to have both countries breaking even level by the end of this year, but that could be over optimistic.

The West German subsidiary makes aircraft-towing equipment and mining vehicles, neither a boom area. The United States has seen its coal mining industry slump by over 30 per cent and a turnaround there will have to be substantial before the mining companies begin buying new equipment.

The company is basing its main hope on a continued improvement from power tools - a loss of £538,000 turned into a £1.7m profit - to help curb the sharp drop in mining supplies profits, which more than halved to £3.3m.

Shareholders would be unwise to expect improved profits in the current period, but a maintained dividend and a high yield coupled with sensible financial policies should see the group maintain an even keel until the expected improvement in 1985.



John Martin: outlets for manufacturers

## Martin The Newsagent

Sandwiches, coffee and computers are available at Martin The Newsagent as it widens its product range to incorporate whatever will make a profit.

Martin's policy is similar to that of Sketchley, the cleaning group, which cuts keys and repairs shoes at its high street shops.

Mr John Martin, chairman, supports vertical integration to the extent that within five years his group, founded on selling newspapers and magazines, still about 35 per cent of business, could be offering manufacturers immediate outlets in the high street.

Therefore, the staff must be trained to sell a wide range of goods offered by the chain and this is being handled by Mr Bill Mitchell, formerly of ASDA group who is the new personnel director.

Martin's traditional businesses are declining. Tobacco market volume, for instance, has fallen another 4 per cent over the year and newspapers 2 per cent.

The last national newspaper dispute, over a weekend and one Monday, cost the group £120,000 at the operating profit level and the absence of papers on a Sunday cut that day's turnover by 50 per cent.

The market was surprised by the performance for the year, particularly after the poor first half. Sales rose 10.3 per cent to £141.6m from £128m, while pretax profits were only marginally lower, from £3.6m to £3.4m.

Despite a £1m increase in borrowings, gearing is being held at 38 per cent and although capital expenditure is being raised a number of low performance shops are being sold off.

The final dividend of 3.72p takes the year's total to 6.12p, against 5.77p the year before. As 156p the shares are well below the year's best, but yield a safe 5.5.

## Caffyns

Record car sales in August had a predictable effect on the half-year results of Caffyns, the South of England motor traders but the company is still waiting for some big property sales to cut borrowings to manageable levels.

Trading continued strongly in the second half, despite fears that the August boom was merely sales brought forward from September, October and November.

Although the Rolls-Royce franchise was lost last April, following Rolls' decision to rationalize its outlets, Caffyns benefited from good sales of BLs Metro and Maestro models and has high hopes for the forthcoming LM10.

Even Fiat and Lancia have improved after a thin patch, though sales performance is well below the levels achieved by the German manufacturers, VAG and Mercedes Benz, represented by Caffyns.

Margins on new car sales have shown no signs of firming, but have at least stabilized after two years of deterioration.

The sale of a garage last May boosted property profits to £48,000, against £73,000, to leave interim pretax profits at £474,000, against £61,000.

Another garage sale has been agreed, while two more may be sold by the year-end, to substantially reduce borrowings. Caffyns' interest charge was cut from £664,000 to £571,000.

These garages being sold are empty and a repeat of last year's extraordinary closure costs of £327,000 is unlikely, so the group should end the year in the black at the attributable level. Meanwhile the interim dividend has been maintained at 2.2p.

The shares were up 2p to 150p yesterday, close to the year's 'high'. They have been supported by bid rumours, which recently re-emerged, but more than 50 per cent of the shares are in family hands and the directors say they would not welcome an approach.

# Scramble for £200m Egyptian contracts

John Lawless

The Egyptians are to announce four contracts in the next few weeks - worth more than £200m, and all involving British companies - to rehabilitate Cairo's crumbling sewers.

To squeeze the lowest possible price from those bidding, the Egyptians allowed a Dutch auction to proceed well after tenders received for the first contract.

Five companies bid a year ago to supply mechanical and engineering equipment for the Al Ameria pumping station. Mather and Platt came in with the lowest offer. The other four contenders - Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering, NEI, Capricorn and GEC - then sought to revise their bids.

NEI came out lowest, but GEC then sent a letter offering to shave another £250,000 off its price. It has just been given a letter of intent, which is still being ratified, at £11.84m against its original bid of about £15m.

If the Egyptians go for the lowest bids so far, Lilly Construction will build 4,900 metres of sewer tunnels between Souk el Samak and Abdeen, having tendered at £106m (£88.3m).

A consortium of Tarmac, Cementation, Balfour Beatty and Edmund Nutall will undertake tunnels Souk el Samak with Ameria, and in particular a 4,000-metre main sewer (at £119m).

The British are guaranteed at least £150m worth of work.

Twelve weeks ago, Fleet Street was in the first flush of millionaire madness, following the launch of the *Daily Express* Millionaires Club promotion. The *Express*'s offer of the biggest prize in newspaper history - £1m - spurred its rivals into feverish editorial activity as they decided whether to respond with similar prizes.

The *Sun* launched a "Live like a millionaire for a day" competition and the *Daily Mirror* ran a series on the pools millionaire, while the *Mail* - the *Express*'s most direct competitor and arch rival - initially confined itself to a promotional slogan saying: "The odds are better in the *Mail* a reference to the huge odds against anyone actually winning the million-pound prize."

As it turned out, the *Mail* was soon to become the only paper to respond directly to the *Express* initiative with a competition offering readers the chance to win more than £1m in four different games. The *Sun* and the *Mirror* continued with their existing bingo and jackpot promotions, offering smaller prizes.

Twelve weeks on, with sales figures for October and November now available, there is no doubt that the Millionaires Club has scored a big success for the *Daily Express*. Sales in November, according to the paper's own estimate, were 2,115,000, some 11 per cent up on the figure for August, before the promotion started.

"It has gone better than we dared hope," Mr Nick Short, assistant managing director of *Express Newspapers*, says. "It has proved to be a far more powerful promotion for the paper than bingo ever was, both in terms of the initial sales gains and in the retention of those sales."

The initial impact of the Millionaires Club was remarkable. On September 19, the day of the promotion, the *Express* achieved an extra sale of 300,000 or 15 per cent, which was acknowledged by its rivals as the best figure ever seen on the first day of such a promotion.

The boom did not end there. At one point, sales reached 2,350,000, almost 450,000 up on the August circulation figure.

"In October, the first full month after the Millionaires Club started, we estimate we sold an average of 2,222,000 copies - and the month began two weeks after the game started, which means the initial huge gains had started to settle down," Mr Short says. "That was our peak monthly sale - 312,000 up on the August figure, an increase of 16 per cent. In November we were 205,000 up on August or 11 per cent - and I think that is remarkable after 10 weeks of a promotion."

"This has virtually rewritten the marketing textbooks for newspapers. If one takes an-

other form of promotion, a serialized book, which we often use for the *Sunday Express*, most publishers would expect an initial sales increase of 4 or 5 per cent and they would be happy normally to hold on to a fifth of that."

"We have had an initial monthly sales increase of 16 per cent and so far we have held on to two-thirds of it."

Rival publishers acknowledge that the promotion has been a success, but point out the enormous cost of the exercise, estimated by some at £3.5m, by others at more. "We made a conscious decision not to react to the Millionaires Club," Mr Roger Bowes, deputy chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, says.

"It would have been throwing money down the drain to try to follow it. The *Express* appears to have held on to 200,000 extra sales - though it is still going down - but you have to look at it in terms of their expenditure. It is a horrendous amount, but they may justify it on the grounds that they have a new editor and a new paper which is now being sampled by extra readers," Mr Bowes adds.

*Express Newspapers* does justify it on those grounds - it is generally accepted that though promotions like this can generate immediate sales, it is the quality of the paper itself that determines whether those readers stay. However, the company also justifies it in straight profit terms.

"Before we started, we worked out what increase in circulation would be necessary to cover the cost of the promotion within 26 weeks,"

# Meggitt looks for acquisitions

Philip Robinson

A shareholder's meeting four days after Christmas should attempt to revitalize the former sleepy engineering company Meggitt Holdings.

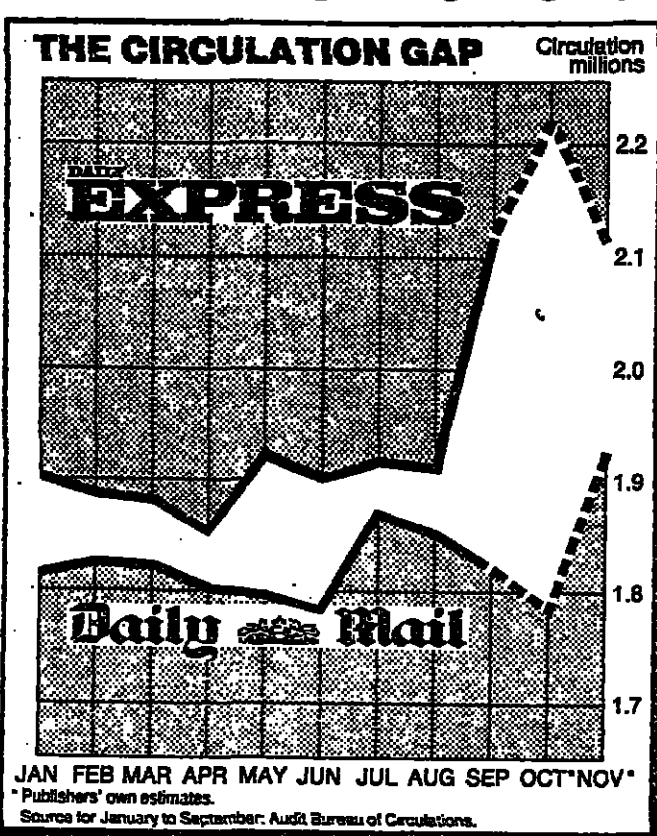
Behind the attempt are Mr Ken Coates and Mr Nigel McCormick. Both were senior directors of Flight Refuelling during a period when that company's turnover rose more than five-fold and the group's profits rose at an even faster rate.

Following Meggitt Shareholders' approval, Mr Coates and Mr McCormick will emerge with about 5 per cent each of Meggitt, the two are being backed by Investors in Industry (IiI) which will take a maximum 20 per cent stake as a result of underwriting a 30p per share rights issue.

Meggitt's share price, 38p at one stage this year, has soared to 101p and closed last night at 93p. The activity has inspired share rises in another engineering group, Hampson Industries. Its share price more than doubled this year and currently stands at 18p on speculation that the reshaped Meggitt will be looking for acquisitions.

# Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

# Express millionaire game sets rivals on the chase



because the *Mail* recorded a figure of only 1,778,000 in October, despite the fact that it was on October 24 that its own Millionaire's *Mail* promotion started.

In November, however, the *Mail* estimates its sale was 1,926,000, its highest November figure for two years. "The peak sales increase was 220,000 and we are holding on to about half of that," Mr Earle says. "The promotion has been comparatively successful in that it has helped us reduce the gap again."

What effect has this million-pound activity had on the rest of the popular press? Basing judgments on month-by-month sales figures is always difficult, because there is a seasonal decline in newspaper sales at this time of the year, but according to Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, the overall market seems to have grown as a result of the promotions: the *Express* and *Mail* gains have not simply been at the expense of their competitors.

"Between August and November last year, sales of the *Sun*, *Star*, *Mirror*, *Express* and *Mail* dropped in total by 154,000 - and that is a seasonal decline that is expected. This year, between August and November the overall sales went up by 132,000, so most of the sales they have put on are extra readers. The *Sun*'s sales drop this year was virtually the same as last year - 36,000 against 31,000 - so it does not appear to have affected us at all."

Just how many of these extra copies will be retained by the *Express* and the *Mail* remains to be seen but Mr Short believes the *Express* has now shed most of the readers it is going to lose. "The drop has slowed right down and we are 12 weeks into the promotion, so we think we will hold most of our extra sale now."

Much will depend, now that the initial excitement is over, on how much prize money is won. So far, the *Mail* and the *Express* are roughly equal on big winners. The *Express* had three £100,000 winners within its first week and has had two more since, but the *Mail* has produced the biggest winner, with a £250,000 payout - the biggest single prize in newspaper history. On each of these occasions promoted with television advertisements, sales rose again.

It has not escaped anyone's notice, however, that the "millionaires" games have yet to produce a million-pound winner and the *Express* is showing signs of desperation to find one. While this has not - as once feared - reduced the impact of the competitions, there is little doubt that if one of the papers did pull off a million-pound win, the excitement could start all over again.

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## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			
Rubber in £2 per tonne	281.50-283.00	SWISS FRANC	11
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt	291.75-293.00	Dec '84	4853
Gas-oil in US\$ per metric ton	466.4	Jan '85	4884
COFFEE			
Arabica	2035-2038	Dec '84	9000
Robusta	1815-1818	Jan '85	8950
Dec '84	1815-1818	Feb '85	8925
Jan '85	1815-1818	Mar '85	8900
Feb '85	1815-1818	Apr '85	8875
Mar '85	1815-1818	May '85	8850
Apr '85	1815-1818	Jun '85	8825
May '85	1815-1818	Jul '85	8800
Jun '85	1815-1818	Aug '85	8775
Jul '85	1815-1818	Sep '85	8750
Aug '85	1815-1818	Oct '85	8725
Sep '85	1815-1818	Nov '85	8700
Oct '85	1815-1818	Dec '85	8675
Nov '85	1815-1818	Jan '86	8650
Dec '85	1815-1818	Feb '86	8625
Jan '86	1815-1818	Mar '86	8600
Feb '86	1815-1818	Apr '86	8575
Mar '86	1815-1818	May '86	8550
Apr '86	1815-1818	Jun '86	8525
May '86	1815-1818	Jul '86	8500
Jun '86	1815-1818	Aug '86	8475
Jul '86	1815-1818	Sep '86	8450
Aug '86	1815-1818	Oct '86	8425
Sep '86	1815-1818	Nov '86	8400
Oct '86	1815-1818	Dec '86	8375
Nov '86	1815-1818	Jan '87	8350
Dec '86	1815-1818	Feb '87	8325
Jan '87	1815-1818	Mar '87	8300
Feb '87	1815-1818	Apr '87	8275
Mar '87	1815-1818	May '87	8250
Apr '87	1815-1818	Jun '87	8225
May '87	1815-1818	Jul '87	8200
Jun '87	1815-1818	Aug '87	8175
Jul '87	1815-1818	Sep '87	8150
Aug '87	1815-1818	Oct '87	8125
Sep '87	1815-1818	Nov '87	8100
Oct '87	1815-1818	Dec '87	8075
Nov '87	1815-1818	Jan '88	8050
Dec '87	1815-1818	Feb '88	8025
Jan '88	1815-1818	Mar '88	8000
Feb '88	1815-1818	Apr '88	7975
Mar '88	1815-1818	May '88	7950
Apr '88	1815-1818	Jun '88	7925
May '88	1815-1818	Jul '88	7900
Jun '88	1815-1818	Aug '88	7875
Jul '88	1815-1818	Sep '88	7850
Aug '88	1815-1818	Oct '88	7825
Sep '88	1815-1818	Nov '88	7800
Oct '88	1815-1818	Dec '88	7775
Nov '88	1815-1818	Jan '89	7750
Dec '88	1815-1818	Feb '89	7725
Jan '89	1815-1818	Mar '89	7700
Feb '89	1815-1818	Apr '89	7675
Mar '89	1815-1818	May '89	7650
Apr '89	1815-1818	Jun '89	7625
May '89	1815-1818	Jul '89	7600
Jun '89	1815-1818	Aug '89	7575
Jul '89	1815-1818	Sep '89	7550
Aug '89	1815-1818	Oct '89	7525
Sep '89	1815-1818	Nov '89	7500
Oct '89	1815-1818	Dec '89	7475
Nov '89	1815-1818	Jan '90	7450
Dec '89	1815-1818	Feb '90	7425
Jan '90	1815-1818	Mar '90	7400
Feb '90	1815-1818	Apr '90	7375
Mar '90	1815-1818	May '90	7350
Apr '90	1815-1818	Jun '90	7325
May '90	1815-1818	Jul '90	7300
Jun '90	1815-1818	Aug '90	7275
Jul '90	1815-1818	Sep '90	7250
Aug '90	1815-1818	Oct '90	7225
Sep '90	1815-1818	Nov '90	7200
Oct '90	1815-1818	Dec '90	7175
Nov '90	1815-1818	Jan '91	7150
Dec '90	1815-1818	Feb '91	7125
Jan '91	1815-1818	Mar '91	7100
Feb '91	1815-1818	Apr '91	7075
Mar '91	1815-1818	May '91	7050
Apr '91	1815-1818	Jun '91	7025
May '91	1815-1818	Jul '91	7000
Jun '91	1815-1818	Aug '91	6975
Jul '91	1815-1818	Sep '91	6950
Aug '91	1815-1818	Oct '91	6925
Sep '91	1815-1818	Nov '91	6900
Oct '91	1815-1818	Dec '91	6875
Nov '91	1815-1818	Jan '92	6850
Dec '91	1815-1818	Feb '92	6825
Jan '92	1815-1818	Mar '92	6800
Feb '92	1815-1818	Apr '92	6775
Mar '92	1815-1818	May '92	6750
Apr '92	1815-1818	Jun '92	6725
May '92	1815-1818	Jul '92	6700
Jun '92	1815-1818	Aug '92	6675
Jul '92	1815-1818	Sep '92	6650
Aug '92	1815-1818	Oct '92	6625
Sep '92	1815-1818	Nov '92	6600
Oct '92	1815-1818	Dec '92	6575
Nov '92	1815-1818	Jan '93	6550
Dec '92	1815-1818	Feb '93	6525
Jan '93	1815-1818	Mar '93	6500
Feb '93	1815-1818	Apr '93	6475
Mar '93	1815-1818	May '93	6450
Apr '93	1815-1818	Jun '93	6425
May '93	1815-1818	Jul '93	6400
Jun '93	1815-1818	Aug '93	6375
Jul '93	1815-1818	Sep '93	6350
Aug '93	1815-1818	Oct '93	6325
Sep '93	1815-1818	Nov '93	6300
Oct '93	1815-1818	Dec '93	6275
Nov '93	1815-1818	Jan '94	6250
Dec '93	1815-1818	Feb '94	6225
Jan '94	1815-1818	Mar '94	6200
Feb '94	1815-1818	Apr '94	6175
Mar '94	1815-1818	May '94	6150
Apr '94	1815-1818	Jun '94	6125
May '94	1815-1818	Jul '94	6100
Jun '94	1815-1818	Aug '94	6075
Jul '94	1815-1818	Sep '94	6050
Aug '94	1815-1818	Oct '94	6025
Sep '94	1815-1818	Nov '94	6000
Oct '94	1815-1818	Dec '94	5975
Nov '94	1815-1818	Jan '95	5950



## People/Bernard Panton of Telecomputing

## Free beer from a software gamble

By Roger Woolnough

In the places where computer users gather, the talk is often of the applications backlog. There are more people with a need for computing than the data-processing departments can handle, so the queue of potential users is growing. One big corporation has estimated that to catch up with all its applications will take until the year 2000.

"It's a software crisis," claims Bernard Panton, and he believes that one person's problems can be another's opportunity. He is planning to move strongly into so-called user-driven software, which allows the people who need computer systems to design and operate them without help from DP professionals.

Panton is chairman of Telecomputing, an Oxford-based company that has made its mark in transaction processing software, which helps in the operation of terminals which are on-line to mainframe computers. He and two associates started the company above a betting shop in 1974, and in this case the gamble came off.

The aim was to write a piece of software called TFS. "Our expectations were to sell 12 copies and then become a normal 'body shop' for software," he recalls. "We have now sold well over 400 copies."

Panton has had a varied career. He was born in England, but went to Australia as a boy and spent some time in the Australian Army. He then became an accountant. His first brush with computers occurred when he returned to Britain in the sixties and worked for Hawker Siddeley.

A spell in a software house then led to a job with the Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation. ICF sent him to one of its clients, Blackwells the booksellers. Panton convinced them they needed a computing system, and stayed on for three years.

Telecomputing came next, when he saw a gap in the market for transaction processing software to run on ICL machines. The company is now converting all its software products, and by the end of 1984 they will run on IBM machines, as well as ICL. Beyond that are the opportunities thrown up by the applications backlog.

Telecomputing is no longer over a betting shop. It now has a £2m turnover, and last July moved to new offices. But Panton has kept the personal touch with his 80-strong staff by having a licensed bar on the premises, where beer is 40p a pint, and free on the last Friday of every month.



## A home PC Christmas in Japan

The attempt to achieve compatibility between home computers took a step forward at the Japan Electronics Show in Osaka, when machines using the MSX operating system were shown by nine manufacturers - Hitachi, JVC, Matsushita, Mitsubishi, National, NEC, Sanyo and Toshiba, writes Roger Woolnough.

MSX has been developed by Microsoft Corporation of the USA, which designed the MS-DOS operating system for the IBM Personal Computer. For MSX, Microsoft has collaborated with several of Japan's electronics manufacturers with the aim of achieving a hardware and software standard for low-end 8-bit microcomputers.

Much of the interest at the Osaka show was in the ability to swap MSX games cartridges between machines from different manufacturers, but fears that standardisation would produce identical machines were dispelled. Sixteen designs were on show.

The Osaka show could herald the long-awaited entry of Japanese manufacturers to the home computer market. The new computers are expected to dominate Christmas offerings in Japan, retailing at between £180 and £200. Software based on ROM cartridges is being offered at around £12.

More holiday bookings are being made with computers. Since it launched its Holidaymaster on-line reservation service for the travel trade earlier this year, Baric Computing Services has received orders worth £500,000. The latest firm to adopt the system is Holiday Expertise, a specialist tour operator.

Baric offers the Holidaymaster package on its ICL ME29 with an interactive videodata link, which can be accessed directly over Prestel Gateway. The booking service provides deposit and final balance invoices, tickets and manifest documents.

It also provides the tour operator with statistical and financial information, so that booking levels can be monitored every day. In this way, managements can take quick

decisions in line with market demand.

One of the country's largest hotel groups, Ladbrooks, which offers specialist weekend packages for bird watchers, raccoons and steam enthusiasts is moving into modern technology in the New Year, when it starts a series of regional computer appreciation weekends for business executives suffering from technophobia.

It will offer full "hands on" sessions, dealing with word processing, financial forecasting, communications, and information storage and retrieval, and show how the micro can be used in their own businesses.

Christmas micro buyers will have their last chance to see a selection of hardware and software under one roof this week, at the Your Computer Christmas Fair at Wembley Conference Centre from Thursday to Sunday.

The newly expanded Dragon 64 will make its debut, and a number of new peripherals for other machines will be on show.

Software galore will be demonstrated, puzzles, games, home utilities and educational packages.

A new information package for the Commodore 64 machine will be shown by Precision Software. "Superbase 64" is a sophisticated database which offers help screens and handles record sizes of up to 1,100 characters. It is compatible with the company's word processing packages. On Saturday there will be a pools forecasting program running.

Two new packages aimed at micro owners who grow plump, sitting at their keyboards, are both based on dietary programs. Penguin is selling a package consisting of the top-selling "Plan Diet" paperback, and a cassette program based on the calorie and fibre contents of foods listed in the book.

A new company, Silverlind, is marketing a "Master Diet Planner" which has been written by a pair of Scottish academics (recipes include Scotch eggs and pancakes).

## THE TIMES National Computer Competition

Early in the New Year, following the success of The Times Classroom Computer Competition, which has attracted thousands of entries, Computer Horizons will be launching a national competition which will be open to all. The aim of the competition is to find the best original use of a microcomputer for a socially useful purpose, which could be a novel computer program or the innovative use of a computer peripheral. Contestants, who may represent schools, colleges, clubs or

associations or enter as individuals, will be required to provide a proposal in no more than 1,000 words for judging on a regional basis. Ten regional winners, with runners-up, will be selected and the ten winners take part next Easter in a national final at the London Computer Festival. There will be valuable prizes and the national winners will have the opportunity of demonstrating their applications at the Festival.

## Mark and Julian win the eleventh competition

Two boys, aged 17 and 11 years, are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer eleventh Competition. They are Mark Inskip of Blythe Bridge High School, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, and Julian Foad of Farnham Common Middle School, Farnham Common, Bucks.

The answers were 1) A; 2) B; 3) B; 4) A; 5) A. The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, and a personal gift of The Times Atlas of World History.

The eight runners-up are Elizabeth Phillips, St. Margaret's School, Bushey, Watford; James Fox, St. Brigid's High School, East Kilbride, Scotland; Paul Mellor, Aberdeen Grammar

School, Aberdeen, Scotland; Debbie Luck, Worle School for girls, Weston-super-Mare, Avon; Judith Russell, Bury Grammar School for girls, Bury; John Robinson, Seeciv School, South Bewlton, Essex; Christopher Lowe, Boroughmuir High School, Edinburgh, Scotland; David Ress, Ashfield School, Kirby in Ashfield, Notts. Each will receive a Times Atlas.

The winning decision was made by a tie-break question.



JULIAN FOAD (above) has had a Spectrum since last Christmas, and is now working on a computerised control system for his model train layout. He has also written the inevitable games. His latest is a skiing game. Slalom. His school has one RML machine, which was bought by the PTA, and uses it for a variety of tasks including simple geometry, a shopping program, and familiarisation of compass bearings.

MARK INSKIP (right) has recently upgraded to a Lynx 48K machine from a ZX81, on which he



learned Basic and Machine Code programming. He has a computer studies "O" level, and hopes to study electrical or computer Engineering when he leaves school. His computer teacher, Mrs C. Wood, uses RML 380Zs in the computer room, where two are linked into a network of sixteen terminals. There are 120 pupils taking the computer studies course at "O" or CSE level. The computers are also used for remedial English lessons, and there are plans to add word processing to the commerce department.

## New world of the video goodies

By Jacquetta Megarry

A new British videodisc system from Thorn EMI Videodisc is presented to the EPIC third annual Interactive Technology Briefing by Peter Morley, its programme director. Far away from the high technology bustle of the conference, five primary teachers were being introduced to the VHD machines they are about to use in their classrooms by Colin Mabley of the School of Education and Humanities at North London Polytechnic.

He is conducting an independent evaluation of some videodisc material which was lent, along with five VHD players, by Thorn EMI who are anxious to find out how teachers and pupils react to the material.

Peter Morley is a well-known maker of award-winning documentary programmes, and is now using the OBE for services to broadcasting. The discs contain programmes from his splendid "Start Here: Adventures into

Science" series. Although these were developed for videodisc, they were also transmitted in conventional "linear" form by Channel Four at 4.30 pm. Audience reaction from parents, children and teachers was enthusiastic.

Very little is known about what makes good interactive video, however, and Thorn EMI looks on the materials as experimental. The free loan of the equipment and disc seems motivated more by professional interest than any commercial or marketing expectation.

The level of interaction built into the programmes is comparatively modest, a reference section provides the equivalent of a random-access animated visual encyclopedia. However, using the optional computer interface (E95) it should be possible to control the disc through the Cepronics interface using any suitable micro-computer and simple BASIC

print statements. Two of the schools have BBC Microcomputers, and although certain refinements like superimposing computer text and graphics on to video pictures would require a special chip which is not yet available, the possibilities stemming from this hardware combination are very wide.

Thorn EMI has also announced the AHD system with four digital channels which can store many combinations of computer data, still pictures or sound. VHD and AHD can be combined on a single disc, and the functions are available on the same player. There are immense possibilities in such a flexible system.

However, the real barrier to progress in educational interactive video has hitherto not been restriction in hardware capability so much as a total absence of suitable discs to experiment with. This results from the twin barriers of the costs of designing

and producing video material suitable for interactive use, and also the cost and commitment to a particular company involved in a disc mastering and pressing.

In the VHD system, which is cheaper than most, disc mastering cost £1,750 per 60-minute disc excluding video production and prior editing; pressing is £23 per disc at the minimum level of 10 discs. Discs are incompatible with optical discs like LaserVision, though the VHD system has the advantage that it can cope with both UK and US colour video standards (PAL and NTSC). The VHD players cost £395 each.

The five junior schools are in various parts of inner and outer London and have been chosen to give a spread. Teachers have been recruited individually, including two head teachers, two class teachers and one peripatetic teacher. The programmes on the disc are "Electric Universe", "Fantastic Power of Air" and "Air at Work" (25 minutes each).

There is also a longer natural science documentary called "Mysteries of the Great Whales". The programmes are aimed at 9 to 11-year-olds, and the teachers will have considerable latitude in deciding how to use them.

The project is in three phases. Phase One began last week when the teachers were introduced to the equipment and took it home to experiment with. Then they will draw up plans for its integration into their normal curriculum practical, giving a rationale for their decisions.

This will form the basis of a "negotiated agreement to proceed" with the directors of the project. Procedures for systematic monitoring and final evaluation procedures will be included in the plans for the next stage.

Under phase two, for around two months early next year, teachers will have the equipment in their schools and use it in line with their plans. The NELP/SEH project team will visit the schools from time to time to observe and discuss its uses with the teachers.

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Instant research from computerized Hansard

## Short cuts at the Commons

News that the text of the House of Commons Hansard is now stored on computer (*The Times*, December 8) will be very welcome to those who daily pore through Hansard looking for items relating to particular topics of interest.

Instead of hours of tedious painstaking research, the computer can do the searching for them in a matter of seconds at the press of a few keys on the terminal keyboard.

The new service is being offered by Sclcon, the computer services company owned by BPS, as part of the external Polis (Parliamentary On-Line Information System) service. Sclcon runs on behalf of the House of Commons services committee.

Polis is a computerized information-retrieval system which provides users with index details on any subject covered in parliamentary papers, including Hansard, on-line.

The system was developed by Sclcon for the Commons' Library to enable the library to provide a rapid service for helping MPs find information among the plethora of publications produced as a result of parliamentary business. It was described in *Computer Horizons* on February 8.

The new service enables terminal users to key in Polis search words relating to the topics they are interested in, obtain a list of index references where the topics are mentioned in the Hansard text, and then display the appropriate text for each reference.

The text stored in the database is as up to date as the publication of Hansard itself.

COMPUTER WEEK

Frank Brown

there being a day's delay between a given session and the Hansard report on that session being entered into the computer.

Coverage is confined to proceedings in the Chamber of the House of Commons, because at present these are the only proceedings at Westminster which are produced in computer-readable form. The Hansard text stored covers the present session of Parliament, ie, from June 22 this year.

Analysis of Polis enquiries has shown that the majority relate to the proceedings over the previous 12 months. Sclcon therefore plans to extend the coverage of the new service back to the start of the last session of the last Parliament, ie, November, 1982.

There are no plans to go back further than this at present, because the demand for such information is likely to be small.

Indeed, with the high cost of storing one million characters (about 150 million characters of information) the company originally planned to restrict coverage to the current and previous sessions, and to discard Hansard reports more than twelve months old at the beginning of each new session.

The cost of storing data is falling, however, and with the possibility of low-cost methods of high volume data storage

becoming commercially available next year, the company is likely to retain stored Hansard information indefinitely.

The new service is unlikely to reduce the number of subscriptions to Hansard, because subscribers will still want to have copies in their libraries.

The service is mainly aimed at people who do not have ready

after it is published."

Another reason why the service is unlikely to affect subscriptions to Hansard is the cost of using the service, which is geared to periodic referencing, rather than large-scale text extraction.

An annual subscription for Hansard daily by post costs £260. To access the Sclcon's Hansard service involves becoming a Polis subscriber, which means an investment of up to £3,500 or more in terminal equipment if you do not have the equipment already, and paying a Polis access charge of £55 an hour (92p a minute) plus 20p per Hansard column accessed.

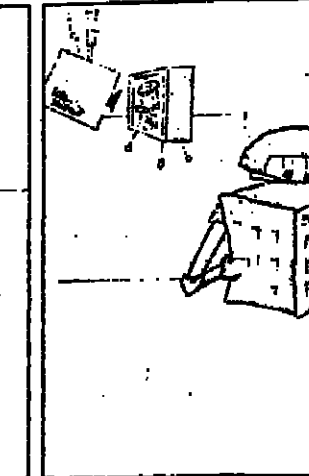
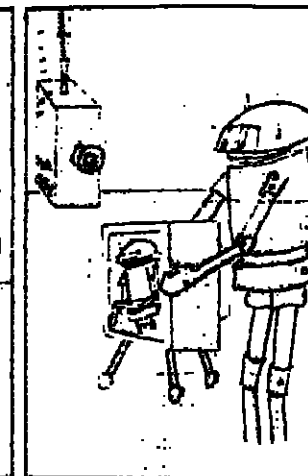
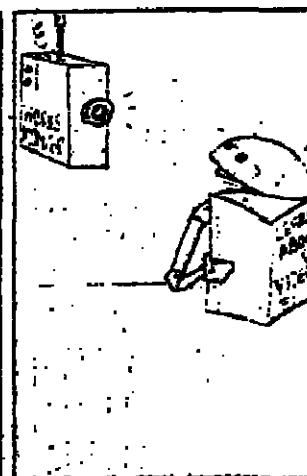
There is also the cost of the call to Sclcon's computer in Milton Keynes. Access can be via telephone line, which can be at local call rates from London and Manchester as well as Milton Keynes, or via any British Telecom PSS data communications node, of which there are about 20 throughout the country.

access to copies of Hansard, according to Michael Bumbury, manager of Sclcon's information systems.

"It saves them the time and effort of going to the nearest library and looking through them for items of information on a particular subject."

"It also enables them to be aware of events in Parliament of interest to them much earlier than they would do otherwise. Many organizations circulate a single copy through one or more departments. Thus, some readers may not see a particular issue until some days or weeks

AGOS



## FO planning for electronic mail

By Maggie McLeone

If the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency gives the go-ahead, the Foreign Office intends to install about 1,500 microcomputers in its UK departments over the next three years, and up to 200 larger systems overseas.

Most of the London-based machines (1,400) will form an internal electronic mail service, with the remaining 100 used to run a personal application for the combined FCO and ODA staff of 9,000. Overseas, the FCO plans to supply consulates with administrative and commercial systems, and has already started the operation in the US and West Germany.

Provisionally estimated to cost between £5-10 million, the FOLIOS (Foreign Office London Integrated Office System) electronic office network is the largest undertaking. It is envisaged as a distributed system

with information "nodes" based on micros with hard disk storage in 80 departments linked by an electronic mail service run on a central processor.

Individual workstations would have word processing, electronic filing, and computerized diaries and telephone directories, plus the ability to send messages anywhere in the network.

The FCO has to deal with large quantities of text, much of which arrives in telexes, and all of it has to be handled quickly. Although external communications are advanced, the internal system is extremely slow, with documents taking up to three weeks to complete circulation, and FOLIOS is intended to speed up the flow and cut down the costs involved.

The FCO Communications

Division has a project for message handling and this will eventually be linked up to the FOLIOS, explained Mr Adrian Thorpe, head of Information Technology.

"We aim to recoup the cost of the system over 10 years from savings on material costs, such as the production of about 10 million photocopies a year and the subsequent shredding of classified documents."

Although the FCO originally considered this type of system as early as 1969, no suitable computer equipment was then available, so the idea was shelved until 1981, when Pancel was commissioned to carry out a strategic study. Pancel reported the results in 1982 and the FCO is now following the recommendations made, working with software house Logica to produce a full study for submission to the CCTA in

January. Procurement is then likely to take place by the end of 1984, with systems being installed during 1985/6.

Mr Thorpe is working closely with the Civil Service unions, and says that so far they have shown a "positive attitude and great enthusiasm". The FCO has set up a dummy system to help clarify requirements expressed by three steering committees representing a wide cross-section of potential users, and a further 700 or so staff have visited the simulated electronic office voluntarily to give their comments.

A similar approach has been taken to the Staff Records System (known as STARS), and the Overseas Programme. The FCO personnel department is experimenting with ICL's Personnel 20 package, running on DRS 20s, as a pilot exercise.

## All the fun of the micro stocking, maths included

With only another eleven shopping days to go, here are a few more suggestions for the micro-stocking, writes Geoffrey Ellis.

Two new Learn Basic packages for users of the Spectrum and Dragon contain a step-by-step book, supported by two cassettes with exercises and programs illustrating the points made in the book. From Logic 3, at £12.95.

Another name new to the games market is Mogul, division of the video company. It has launched 13 games for all of the popular home machines. They range from arcade games such as Creator's Revenge for the Commodore 64, Super Trek for the Oric, 64 and Vic 20, to a classic adventure pack taking more than six hours to solve.

There is a new database available for the Spectrum: Data Genie, comes from Audiogenic and it uses the "pop up" menu style of the more expensive Magpie system. This one sells at a modest £9.95.

Another goodie from Audiogenic is a graphics tablet for the Commodore 64. This consists of a tablet and stylus, disk-based

software and instruction manual. It enables the user to create high quality illustrations with commands like brush option, colour palette, and the built-in selection of pre-formed shapes. This comes at around £90.

New home user book titles include the Penguin Computing Book, a substantial paperback of 450 pages by Susan Curran and Ray Curnow, which starts with an historical look at the subject, goes on through various aspects of the technology, deals with the different languages, and ends with various applications. It sells at £5.95.

Other titles more useful in an instant way are those which carry listings and routines. Representative of these are Winning Games on the Vic 20, a selection of all the old faithfuls, distributed by John Wiley at £5.95.

If you feel that there should be more to micros than game playing, then *Maths+Computers=Fun*, by Geoffrey Childs at £6.25, should solve your dilemma. It is full of listings to help brighten up learning at a number of levels.

### UK events

Your Computer Christmas Fair, Wembley Conference Centre, December 15-18.

Which Computer? Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 17-20.

Northern Home Entertainment Show, Excelsior Hotel, Manchester Airport, January 18-22.

Acorn Education Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, January 25-27.

Statindex 84, Earls Court, London, January 28th - 1st January.

Peripherals Suppliers, Cunard

International, January 31-Feb 2, Communications & Computer Systems Fair - CABLES, Pontin's, Prestatyn, Wales, February 2-4.

LET 84, Heathrow Penta Hotel, February 13-15.

International Home Computers, Heathrow Penta Hotel, February 13-15.

Information Technology & Office Automation Exhibition and Conference, Barbican Centre, London, ECI February 21-24.

CEM Only Conference, Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7.

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## What do you want, promises or peripherals?

As you may have already discovered, buying a computer is simple, but buying the peripherals for a computer, that can be a real headache.

They're always going to arrive at the shop next month, and next month never comes. Even worse, some computer companies don't even bother to produce a complete range of peripherals.

The good news is Commodore dealers have a complete range of peripherals available now.

The 1541 disk drive stores over 170,000 characters of data on each diskette giving you access to any part of the diskette in seconds. £229.00.

The 1530 cassette unit runs pre-recorded programs and stores data. £44.95.

### The 1701 colour monitor

Its 14" screen gives far better resolution and picture quality than a TV. £230.00.

**Dot matrix printers.** The MPS801 printer prints alphabetic, numeric or graphic characters at 50 per second. £230.00. The 1526 prints at 60 characters per second, has friction feed and takes standard stationery. £345.00.

**The 1520 printer/plotter** draws in 4 colours, and prints characters and numbers. £169.99.

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Buy the 1541 disk drive and you'll receive free Commodore 64 software worth over £100. Comprises Easyscript (word processing program) and a compilation of games including Stellar Wars, Sooper Froot, Labyrinth, Patience, Depth Charge and The Quest. (Offer applicable while stocks last.)

**commodore**

Please send me information on: 1541 disk drive ☐ 1530 cassette unit ☐ 1701 colour monitor ☐ 1520, printer, plotter ☐ MPS801, 1526 printers ☐ VIC 20 ☐ Commodore 64 ☐ (Please tick appropriate box.)

The Commodore Information Centre, 675 Ajax Avenue, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4BG. Tel: Slough (0753) 79292.

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## Cambridge University elections and awards

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# Legal Appointments

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## CORNWALL MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

East Penwith, Penwith and Isles of Scilly Petty Sessions Divisions

### COURT CLERK/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

GRADE CC/PAD - Points 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Applications for the above post are invited from persons who have wide experience of work in a judicial office and who are competent to take the full range of Courts without supervision.

Candidates should be able to undertake the full range of legal activities with particular emphasis on planning, including attendance at court, and the preparation of legal documents, and the management of the court's administrative affairs.

For an application form, please contact: The Clerk of the Magistrates' Courts Committee, Room 49, County Hall, TRURO, Cornwall, TR1 3AY.

CLOSING DATE: 31 JANUARY 1984

INTERVIEW DATE: 24 JANUARY 1984

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Section, New Bridge House, Dover, Kent, CT14 1JS. Tel: Dover (0304) 200800.

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CC/PAD POINTS 4/12

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APPLICATION FORMS, obtainable from the undersigned, should be completed and returned by Friday 23rd December 1983. Interviews will be held on Friday 13th January 1984.

G. K. BURGESS, L.L.B.

Clerk of the Magistrates'

Courts Committee

Room 49, County Hall,

Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY

CLOSING DATE: 23 DECEMBER 1983

INTERVIEW DATE: 13 JANUARY 1984

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Section, New Bridge House, Dover, Kent, CT14 1JS. Tel: Dover (0304) 200800.

Closing date: 31 January 1984

Interview date: 24 January 1984

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The Legal Services Department has vacancies for the following:-

1. A Company/Commercial Lawyer with at least three years' post qualification experience of UK and EEC competition law and knowledge of asset/share acquisitions and disposals.
2. An Assistant (preferably with suitable experience) to advise on the law and codes of practice relating to advertising and promotional material.

Salary and range of benefits will be attractive and will take full account of age and experience.

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156 St John Street,  
London EC1P 1AR

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Application materials from 180 High Road, London, N.W.10, 01-451 1122

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Section, New Bridge House, Dover, Kent, CT14 1JS. Tel: Dover (0304) 200800.

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## Brothers jailed for selling glue-sniff kits

Two brothers who sold glue-sniffing kits to children were each jailed for three years yesterday in a case that made Scottish legal history.

At Glasgow High Court, the two shopkeepers, Khalid Raja, aged 23, and his brother Ahmed, aged 29, from Mount Florida, Glasgow, admitted selling the glue to children in their newsagents shop in the city's Saltmarket.

The Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh ruled last month that such sales were a crime in Scotland.

Before the trial was due to start yesterday the brothers changed their plea, with Khalid admitting selling glue to 10 children and Ahmed to six.

The court heard that despite appeals from parents and the police to stop selling solvents, they continued to hand them over in crisp bags to youngsters. The charge stated that they sold the solvents knowing the vapours were going to be inhaled and could cause danger to the health and lives of the children.

But allegations that they had accepted stolen articles from children in exchange for supplying them with solvents were dropped.

Mr Donald McKay, for the prosecution, said the matter first came to police attention in 1981 when the problem of glue-sniffing by young people in Glasgow was causing serious concern.

A counselling unit at the London Road Police Station discovered from the youngsters that they were buying glue to the sniff. The police spoke to Khalid.

"He indicated he understood he was not breaking the law and was not prepared to cooperate," Mr McKay said.

At that time, Mr McKay said, the police did not indicate to either of the brothers that they were breaking the law - as they were under the same "misapprehension" that no law was being broken.

A few weeks later Ahmed Raja was spoken to, and it was suggested to him that while selling glue might not be illegal, he should cooperate with the authorities because of the harm being done to children.

But, said Mr McKay, his response was that the law was not being broken and he would not cooperate.

Last May, there was a demonstration outside the shop because various organizations were becoming increasingly concerned.

Mr McKay said that another visit failed to make the brothers stop the practice. Finally, a search warrant was obtained, and the police found four gallons of glue on the premises.

Defence counsel told the court that while what they did might be morally wrong, the brothers did not think they were breaking the law.



Bombing aftermath: A vehicle lies destroyed in Kuwait's Salvi district after yesterday's bombings.

## Bombings in Kuwait blamed on Iran

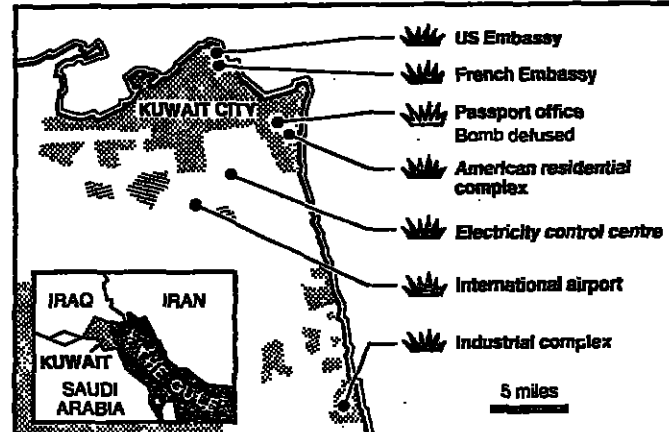
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Muslim monarchies and their oil wealth.

In an angry statement last night, Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, said that he would "purify the country of all suspects who exploited its hospitality," although Kuwait's 120-mile coastline can easily be infiltrated by small boats crossing the Gulf from Iran.

The Iraqis have reason to vent their wrath on Kuwait. As part of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Kuwait has helped to contribute up to \$160m worth of funds to Iraq since September 1980, and has since assisted Iraq's war effort against Iran by donating, together with Saudi Arabia, more than 330,000 barrels of oil, accounting for a quarter of Iraq's foreign exchange earnings.

France's military support for Iraq and its recent sale of Super-Étendard jets to President Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad could well have provided the excuse for the bomb at the French Embassy in Kuwait.



Among its Arab adversaries, Kuwait would probably include Syria. The Kuwaiti press has been extremely critical of Syria's role in trying to crush Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman - there are 300,000 Palestinians among Kuwait's million-strong population - and the country's Parliament recently voted to stop financial aid to Damascus.

There was no indication last night, however, that Syria had any involvement in the bombings. Some of the American Embassy buildings were set on fire by the explosion of the bomb on the six-wheeled lorry driven through the main gate. Mr Ahmed Shama, a recep-

tionist at the embassy described how the ceiling crashed down on the heads of people on the ground floor.

"We heard screams outside," he said, "and people were asking for help."

WASHINGTON: The United States yesterday deplored the bombing attacks in Kuwait in the strongest terms and said that they "will not deter us from pursuing a steady policy in the Middle East". The State Department said there was no prior warning of the attack. The embassy had in the past received several security threats and had tried to take appropriate security precautions.

RABAT: The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said the Kuwait attack "reminds us of the difficulties of achieving Middle East peace, but it would not deflect the United States from its attempts to achieve it."

London at risk? page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

## Civilization versus the Dark suburbs

Mr William Waldegrave, the under secretary at the Department of the Environment, arrived yesterday, as is his tendency every few weeks, to answer questions as the Minister in the Commons responsible for the arts.

A lively interest in his work in that capacity is taken by the All Party Philistine Group. His question time is always the same: the questioning of this minister, like all real art, tends to follow rules and form. At some point someone - sometimes the minister himself - suggests that "the arts", or rather government cash for various institutions, are essential to civilization.

The two front benches, and an apparent majority of backbenches, agree on that. The tone is pious, "the arts" having long ago replaced religion in that respect. Before long even the most hardened aesthetes among us begin to desire a lowering of the tone. With all this wild talk of civilization flying about the chamber, one of the All Party Philistine Group in due course puts in a good word for barbarism. The effect is rather refreshing.

The group is made up of an alliance of Labour left-wingers and the Tory suburbs. Its work is designed to foster a hatred of "the arts" among the British people, a nation which, because of the dead hand of the Arts Council, has been denied the normal opportunities which are commonplace in such countries as Australia. To this end, there is a varied programme of questions.

Yesterday, for example, there was a stimulating question from one of the outstanding figures in the barbarism world: the Tory member for the Birmingham suburb of Selly Oak, who has the appropriately Satanic name of Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (perhaps a descendant of some of the Dark Beaumonts of Selly Oak). He demanded to know why it was so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public. Why could not people who appreciated such activities pay the full cost of their tickets?

It is one of those few questions in politics to which it is extremely difficult to give a satisfactory answer. None of

us who are the beneficiaries of arts subsidies, and wait to carry on being, have yet been able to devise such an answer. Faced with Darkness from Selly Oak, we tend to fall back on civilization (arts subsidies) but a small fraction of.

Yesterday, Mr Waldegrave opened for the latter Mr Beaumont-Dark scolded darkly, as was understandable. Mr Beaumont-Dark's Labour colleagues in the Philistine Group tend to have a different objection to the way the arts are financed. For theological reasons, being socialists, they are unable to oppose any known subsidy. So their objection to the arts subsidies is that they should not go to such things as opera, but to more democratic forms such as colliery bands, black puddings and whippersnapping. Sadly, it being a Monday free from parliamentary divisions, most of these members were still in their constituencies yesterday.

We could have done with some of their brutal wails amid the pieties. As it was, Mr Beaumont-Dark, the Labour member for Selly Oak, pressed Mr Waldegrave to look after the interests of the Scottish National Opera Company. Opera was important to Scotland, it seemed generally agreed - raising the inevitable prospect of Scottish opera hooliganism at the company's away performances in London. Mrs Renee Short, a Labour left-wing tragedienne from Wolverhampton, North East, said the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, had been renovated and was now more beautiful than the Old Vic. Could they have some government money? Mr Waldegrave was cautious about whether to subsidize the Old Renée, as the theatre deserves to become known.

The Tory, Sir Raymond Gower, in taking issue with his backbench colleague Mr Beaumont-Dark, reminded the legend that even in the heyday after the Second World War the continental countries - by which he meant the Germans and Austrians - found the money to subsidize opera houses. Mr Waldegrave assured him that there was a role for State patronage of the arts "in a civilized society". This raised a question which no one asked: if the arts made the Germans so civilized, how come they started the war in the first place?

## Ridley calls for review before BA goes private

An urgent review of civil aviation policy has been ordered by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, before the privatization of British Airways in about a year. It will be made by the Civil Aviation Authority, and could open the door to a transfer of routes from British Airways to British Caledonian on lines described by Lord King, chairman of BA last month, as a "snatch and grab raid". Mr Ridley has clearly bowed to parliamentary support for BA's plan to take over some BA routes and thus restore a more even balance between BA, which has 83 per cent of British routes and the rest of the industry.

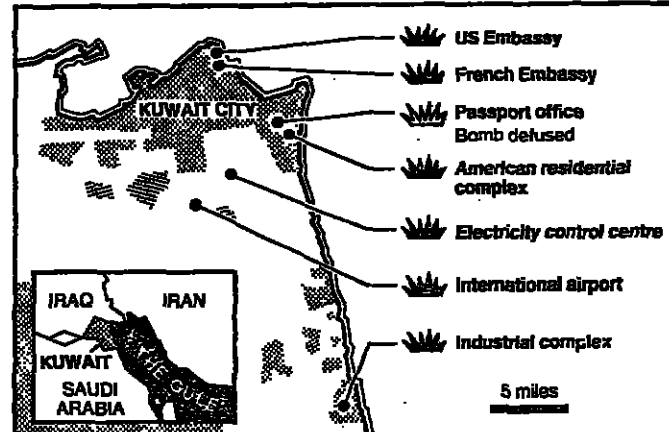
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London at risk? page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will present the MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace, Aprn, and as President of the Royal Society of Arts presents the Presidential Awards for Design Management at the Design Management Symposium 6pm and subsequently presents the Albert Medal at a dinner at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, WC2.  
Princess Margaret will attend a Gala performance of "Cinderella".

at the National Theatre in aid of the National Theatre Foundation, 7.25.  
The Duke of Kent, Colonel of the Scots Guards, visits the 2nd Battalion at Chelsea Barracks, SW1, 12.  
The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, attends the "Not Forgotten" Association's Christmas Party at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, 3.  
Princess Michael of Kent attends the Annual Dinner of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators at the Guildhall, EC2 7.30.  
Last chance to see MacLaurin Art Gallery Christmas

Show: selection of paintings, drawings, prints, ceramics, fabric work and jewelry by popular gallery artists and craftsmen. MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roccio Park, Aprn; Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (ends today).

### TV top ten

- National top ten television programmes in the week ending December 4:
- 1 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 15.25m
  - 2 The 100th Hour, 15.15m
  - 3 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 15.25m
  - 4 Home Time, 14.50m
  - 5 Up the Elephant and Round the Bungalow, 14.50m
  - 6 The 100th Hour, 14.50m
  - 7 The 100th Hour, 14.50m
  - 8 The 100th Hour, 14.50m
  - 9 The 100th Hour, 14.50m
  - 10 The 100th Hour, 14.50m

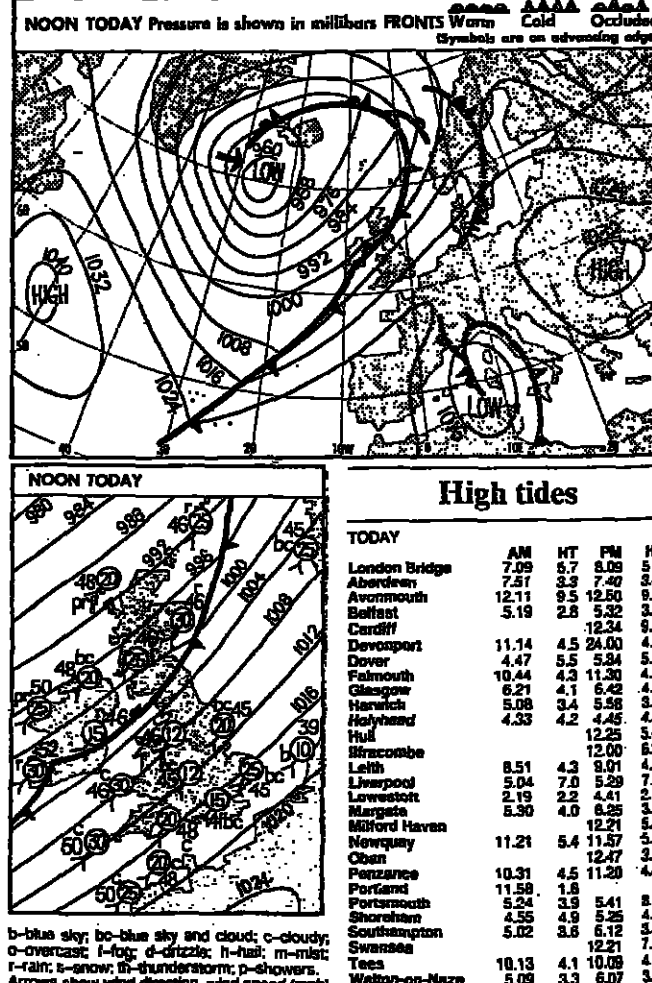
### Roads

London and South-east: M20: Contrail on both carriageways from A20 junction 5/Maidstone West to 1/4 mile east of A249 (junction 7) - 3 hours. Sitings/boroughs avoid if possible. A41: Temporary signals 24 hours on Watford Road, Kings Langley, A40: Long delays through reconstruction in Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Midway Parade.

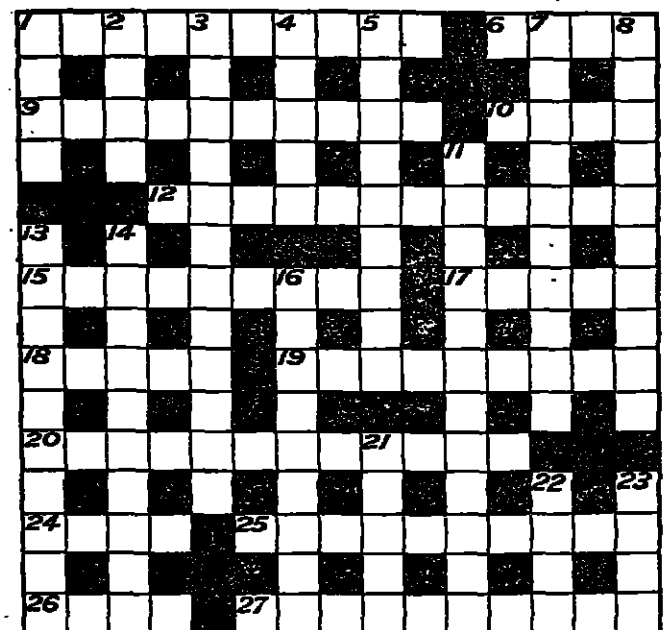
### Weather

A trough of low pressure will cross north-western areas during the day with a south-westerly airstream over all areas.

**6am to midnight**  
E, central N England, W Midlands: Dry at first with sunny intervals, rain later; wind SW moderate or fresh; max temp 8 to 10 (4 to 6).  
SW England, S Wales: Dry at first apart from light rain or drizzle over windward coasts and hills, more general rain spreading from W later; wind S to SW strong with gales in exposed places; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).  
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Rain and drizzle, hill fog; wind S to SW strong with gales in exposed places; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).  
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Dry at first, rain and drizzle spreading from W; wind SW strong; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).  
Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands: Rain soon spreading from W, extensive hill fog, becoming clearer during evening; wind SW strong with gales in exposed places; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).  
Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rain with extensive hill fog, clearer later with showers; wind S or SW, strong to gale; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).  
SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, English Channel (E), Straits of Dover: Wind SW moderate increasing strong to gale; sea slightly becoming very rough.  
S. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW strong to severe gale; rain at times; sea very rough.



### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,308



- ACROSS**
- 1 Meeting, not improperly, in bed (10).
  - 2 Beguiler of sonnets, one grand old politician (4).
  - 3 Resignation, having money prize returned (10).
  - 4 Bit of brass needed for both article (4).
  - 5 Pleiades seen on the Sussex coast (5,7).
  - 6 Complete reversal in US concerning features (5,4).
  - 7 Bit of a drag, gross trouble-making results (5).
  - 8 Visitor to Siam married into old Asian kingdom (5).
  - 9 Expenses of excursions - go into them (9).
  - 10 In one race what could be nicer for getting out of rubbish (17).
  - 11 Sort of unfinished book by Melville (4).
  - 12 Ball one put in hide covers for the game (10).
  - 13 Over-grill this fish? (4).
  - 14 Achieve this (10).
- DOWN**
- 1 Sounds of cats in the stable yard (4).
  - 2 Perhaps a way out swifter - knight's aged man (4).
  - 3 The Heart of Midlothian in Holy Writ (3,9).
  - 4 Delete article in Gaelic (5).
  - 5 A rent isn't needing such temporary revision (9).
  - 6 One hoping to accommodate a U-type customer? (5,5).
  - 7 Where shooting is encouraged, if not with catapults (10).
  - 8 Odd case with Marco, tenor, being tied up in his act (12).
  - 9 Like secret doctrine about a missile description, say (10).
  - 10 An abundant supply (ideal cereal country if 100 replaced by end of August) (10).
  - 11 Poor Cora, happy to be where Judith is (9).
  - 12 Material for repair of lute left inside (5).
  - 13 Where to sunbathe with nothing but a hat on (4).
  - 14 Was accustomed to describe second-hand cars so (4).

### S. Atlantic calls

British servicemen in the Falklands will be able to call their families direct from Christmas at a special rate of 75 pence a minute. This will apply from December 20 until January 10 (inclusive). Telephone circuits will be increased five-fold, using satellite links and special circuit-boasting equipment which is being airlifted to the Falklands. Calls from Britain to the Falklands must be booked through the international operator service. This Friday, December 16, is the latest recommended posting date for BFPO addresses overseas, including those serving in the South Atlantic.

Heinrich Heine, poet was born at Düsseldorf, 1797. Deaths: Moses Maimonides, philosopher and physician, Egypt, 1204. Donatello, sculptor, Florence, 1466. Samuel Johnson, London, 1784. Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand, 1642.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): London Regional Transport, second reading. Lords (2.30): Agricultural Holdings Bill, committee, third day.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.64	1.54
Austria Sch	28.95	27.35
Belgium Fr	83.75	79.75
Canada \$	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.82	14.12
Finland Mk	8.73	8.33
France Fr	12.30	11.80
Germany DM	161.00	151.00
Hong Kong \$	11.50	10.90
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	246.00	235.00
Japan Yen	355.00	337.00
Netherlands Gld	4.59	4.36
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	194.00	186.00
South Africa Rd	1.82	1.69
Spain Ptas	233.50	223.50
Sweden Kr	12.80	11.40
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.13
USA \$	1.63	1.43
Yugoslavia Dr	218.00	208.00

### The papers

The Washington Post admits that it was caught by surprise by the lack of sophistication shown by the European leaders in Athens. "It's highly unusual for experienced politicians, all Heads of Governments, to let a formal international conference fail as explicitly as this one did. ... But it's been evident for some time that the 10 governments are fed up with each other and the catalogue of entrenched disputes that nobody seems able to resolve."

### Lighting-up time

Location	Lighting-up time
London	4.22 pm to 7.28 am
Birmingham	4.31 pm to 7.38 am
Manchester	4.38 pm to 7.45 am
Cardiff	4.45 pm to 7.52 am
Glasgow	4.52 pm to 8.00 am

### Around Britain

Location	Sun	Moon	Cloud	Temp
London	4.22	4.31	4.45	4.52
Birmingham	4.31	4.40	4.54	5.01
Manchester	4.38	4.47	5.01	5.08
Cardiff	4.45	4.54	5.08	5.15
Glasgow	4.52	5.01	5.15	5.22

### Abroad

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	18-24	SE	Partly
Amman	15-21	SE	Partly
Baghdad	18-24	SE	Partly
Bombay	28-34	SE	Partly
Buenos Aires	18-24	SE	Partly
Cairo	18-24	SE	Partly
Colon	28-34	SE	Partly
Hong Kong	28-34	SE	Partly
London	18-24	SE	Partly
Manila	28-34	SE	Partly
Medan	28-34	SE	Partly
Moscow	18-24	SE	Partly
Paris	18-24	SE	Partly
Rangoon	28-34	SE	Partly
Seoul	18-24	SE	Partly
Singapore	28-34	SE	Partly
Tokyo	18-24	SE	Partly
Yokohama	18-24	SE	Partly

مكتبة من الأصل